School of Theology at Claremont
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CUNEIFORM TEXTS

FROM

BABYLONIAN TABLETS, &c.,

IN THE

BRITISH MUSEUM.

PART XIII

(50 Plates.)

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CUNEIFORM TEXTS

FROM

BABYLONIAN TABLETS, &c.,

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(50 Plates.)

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CONTENTS.

Plates.

I. The Series of Tablets called by the Assyrians "ENUMA ELISH," describing the Creation of the World:—

1. *Tablet I.* [K. 5419*c*, No. 93015 (82-7-14, 402), 81-7-27, 80, and K. 3938].

The first Tablet describes the time when the heavens and the earth were not, and when the primeval water-gods, Apsû and Tiamat, alone existed; subsequently the great gods were created, and Apsû and Tiamat revolted against them. The tablet ends with an account of the monsters which Tiamat created to help her in the fight with the gods 1–3

2. *Tablet II.* [No. 38,396, K. 4832, 79-7-8, 178, and K. 292].

The second Tablet records how Anshar sent Anu to appease Tiamat, but he met with no success. Whereupon Anshar appealed to his son Marduk to fight Tiamat on behalf of the gods and to slay her. Marduk consented to do so, and requested that the gods should be summoned to ratify his appointment as their champion 4–6

3. *Tablet III.* [K. 3473 + 79-7-8, 296 + R. 615 + K. 4832, K. 6650, No. 93,017 (88-4-19, 13), K. 8575, K. 8524, 83-1-18, 2116, 83-1-18, 1868, and 82-9-18, 1403].

The third Tablet tells how Anshar sent Gaga his minister to summon Lakhmu and Lakhamu and the other gods to an assembly. The gods met in Upshukkinaku, their council chamber, where they feasted at a banquet in honour of Marduk 7–13

4. *Tablet IV.* [No. 93,016 (82-9-18, 3737), K. 3437 + R. 641, R. 2, 83, No. 93,051, 79-7-8, 251, K. 5420*c*].

The fourth Tablet contains an account of the election of Marduk to be the champion of the gods, who conferred supreme power upon him; Marduk tested the magical powers which had been given to him by making a garment to disappear and reappear. He then armed himself for the fight and set out in his chariot, accompanied by the winds which he had created. He slew Tiamat and routed her followers, and after the battle he cut her body in halves, with one of which he covered the heavens 14–21

5. *Tablet V.* [K. 3567 + K. 8588, K. 8526, and K. 3449*a*].

The fifth Tablet records the creation of the stars by Marduk, the stablishing of the year, and the appointment of the Moon to determine the days 22, 23

6. *Miscellaneous Fragments.* [K. 14,949, K. 12,000*b*, K. 3445 + R. 396, K. 8522 and K. 9267].

It is uncertain how many Tablets, or numbered sections, the Creation Series contained. Under this section are given the texts of a number of fragments which most probably belong to the Series; thus K. 8522 and its duplicate K. 9267 are no doubt parts of the last Tablet of the Series, and they contain a number of addresses to the god Marduk in his character of champion of the gods and creator of the world. The text ends with an epilogue which enjoins the study of the poem and promises prosperity to those who make known to others its contents 24–28

Plates.

7. [K. 3364, K. 7067, K. 10,791, K. 8572, K. 11,048, K. 12,000*c*, R. 982 + 80-7-18, 178, and S. 747.]

In this section are given the texts of a number of Tablets, which on insufficient evidence have been assigned to the Creation Series. S. 747 seems to be part of an Assyrian Commentary to the last Tablet of the Series ... 29–32

II. Other Creation Legends :—

1. Another version of the battle with the dragon. In this account the fight does not precede the creation of the world, and details are given as to the dragon's size [R. 282] 33, 34

2. An account of the creation of the beasts of the field and of the cattle of the field [D.T. 41] 34

3. An account of the creation of the world by Marduk and the goddess Aruru. The text is written both in Sumerian and Babylonian [82-5-22, 1048] ... 35–38

III. Legends and texts of Early Kings :—

1. Legend of an ancient king of Cuthah [K. 5418*a* and K. 5640] 39–41

2. Legend of Sargon, king of Agade [K. 3401 + S. 2118, K. 4470, and No. 47,449] 42, 43

3. Legend of Naram-Sin, the son of Sargon [81-2-4, 219] 44

4. Legend referring to Dungi, king of Ur [K. 8508] 45

5. Legend referring to Libit-Ishtar, king of Isin [K. 2973] 45

6. Portion of the Laws of Khammurabi, king of Babylon [Bu. 91-5-9, 221] ... 46, 47

7. Legend of Nebuchadnezzar I., king of Babylon [K. 3426] 48

8. Legends of Early Kings [K. 4541 and K. 7861] 49, 50

Part XIII. of "Cuneiform Texts from Babylonian Tablets, etc.," contains texts from fifty-three baked clay Tablets and fragments of the Kouyunjik and other collections. The texts are mythological legends and may be divided into the following classes :—

(1.) Texts belonging to the Creation Series styled by the Assyrians "ENUMA ELISH," "When in the height," from the two opening words of the first Tablet of the Series. The poem describes the birth of the gods, the battle of the god Marduk with the monster Tiamat, and the creation of the world by Marduk.

(2.) Miscellaneous Legends of the Creation. Under this heading are given a second version of the battle with the Dragon, the text of a Tablet referring to the creation of beasts, and a completely different version of the narrative of the Creation, in which no contest with a dragon is mentioned.

(3.) Legends and texts of early Babylonian kings. The legends form a distinct class and include texts relating to Sargon, king of Agade, about B.C. 3800, and his son Naram-Sin, about B.C. 3750; Dungi, king of Ur, about B.C. 2500; Libit-Ishtar, king of Isin, about B.C. 2300; and Nebuchadnezzar I., king of Babylon, about B.C. 1120; on Plate 46 f. is an Assyrian copy of part of the Laws of Khammurabi, king of Babylon.

In the following Plates an attempt has been made to place in the hands of students the whole of the Babylonian and Assyrian material preserved in the British Museum relating to two important groups of legends concerning the creation of the world and the mythical origins and deeds of some of the earliest and most famous kings of Mesopotamia. The true character of the texts inscribed upon the larger and more clearly written Assyrian fragments containing the principal legend of the Creation was recognised by the late General Sir H. C. Rawlinson, Bart., G.C.B., as far back as 1865, but it was not till some ten years later that the late Mr. George Smith published translations of a selection of them with brief remarks, in which he pointed out the resemblance between certain portions of the legend and passages in the early chapters of the Book of Genesis (see *Chaldean Genesis*, London, 1876; and *Transactions of the Society of Biblical Archæology*, Vol. IV., 1876). Since that time the fragments published by Mr. George Smith have been frequently examined and commented on by Assyriologists, and several renderings of them have appeared in English, French and German; but no collected edition of the cuneiform texts has hitherto been made. In the present work will be found copies of a relatively large number of Creation fragments, the texts of which have remained unpublished; among those of special interest is No. 38,396 (see Plate 4), which supplies a large portion of the missing text of the Second Creation Tablet. An

important unnumbered fragment of a duplicate text of the last Tablet of the Creation Series, which was used by Mr. George Smith in the preparation of his published copy referred to above, was after his death lost sight of for about twenty-five years; during the re-examination of the collections, however, in the year 1900, it was identified, and it now bears the number K. 9267 (see Plate 28).

The legends, etc., of early Babylonian kings given on Plates 44–50 are here published for the first time.

The copies have been made by Mr. L. W. King, M.A., Assistant in the Department.

E. A. WALLIS BUDGE.

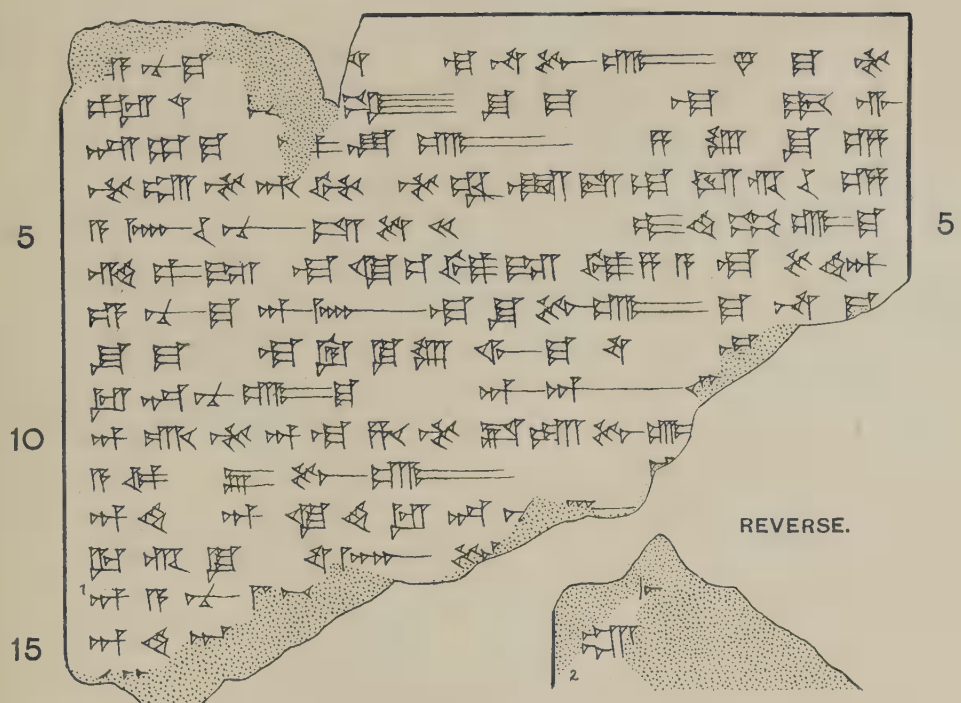
Department of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities,
British Museum.

May 11th, 1901.

CREATION SERIES, TABLET I.

K. 5419, *c*.

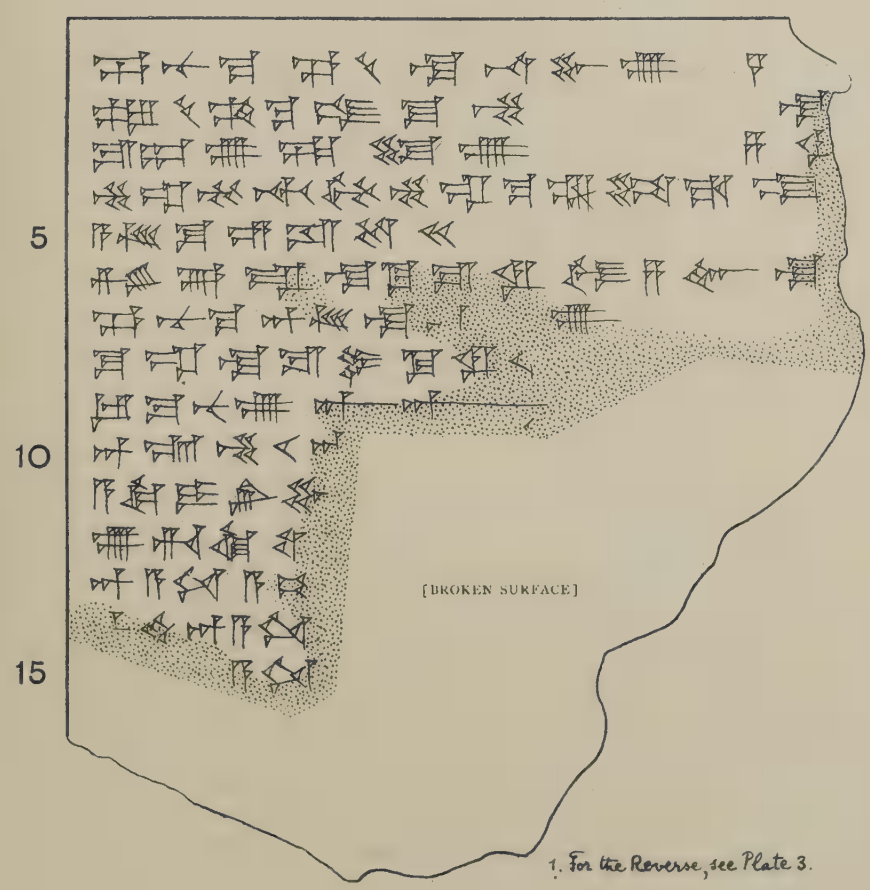
OBVERSE.



1. Ll. 14 f., restored from No. 93,015, read: ^{ilu}A-nu a-bi . . . ., and An-šar ^{ilu}A-nu . . . . 2. The rest of the Reverse gives traces of the common colophon.

No. 93,015 [82-7-14,402.]

OBVERSE.[1]



1. For the Reverse, see Plate 3.

CREATION SERIES, TABLET I.

REVERSE.

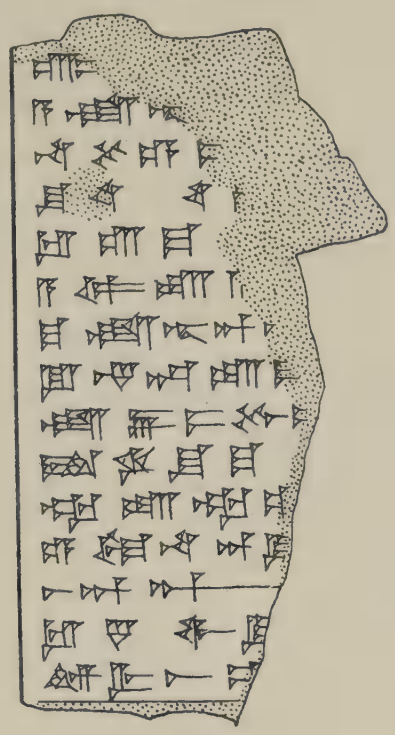
81-7-27,80.

OBVERSE.

1. The reading ul-la-ni is certain.

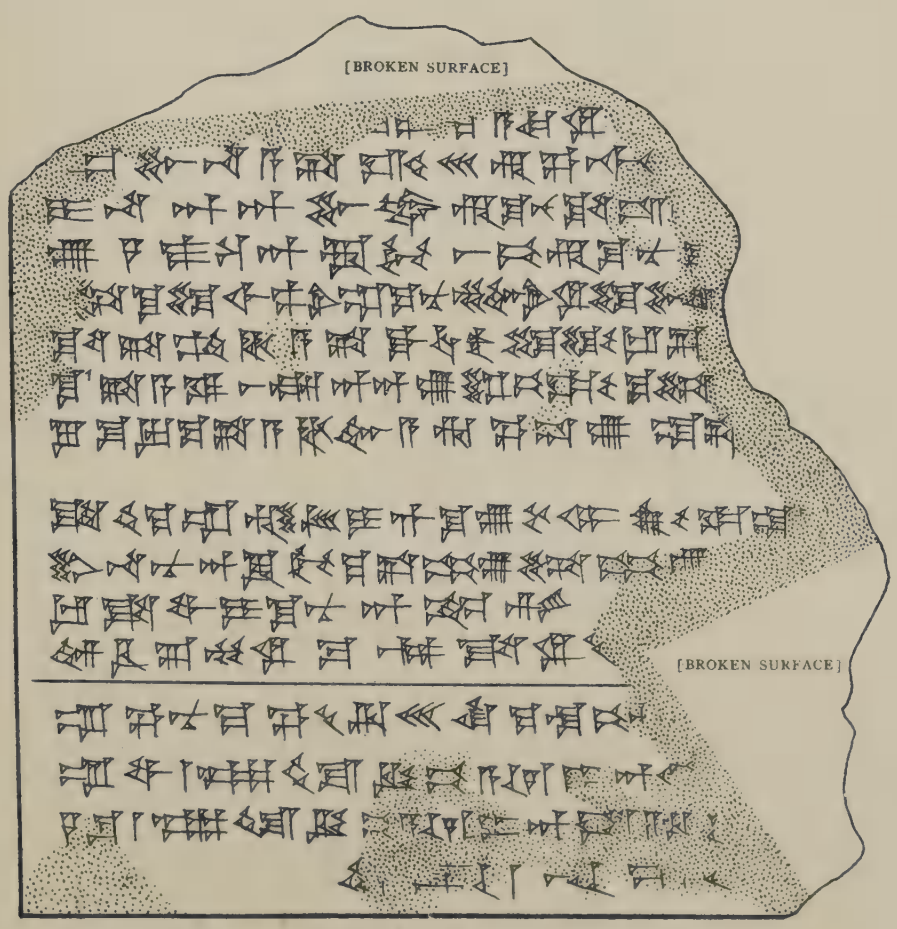
CREATION SERIES, TABLET I.

OBVERSE. K. 3938. REVERSE.



No. 93,015 [82-7-14,402.]

REVERSE.

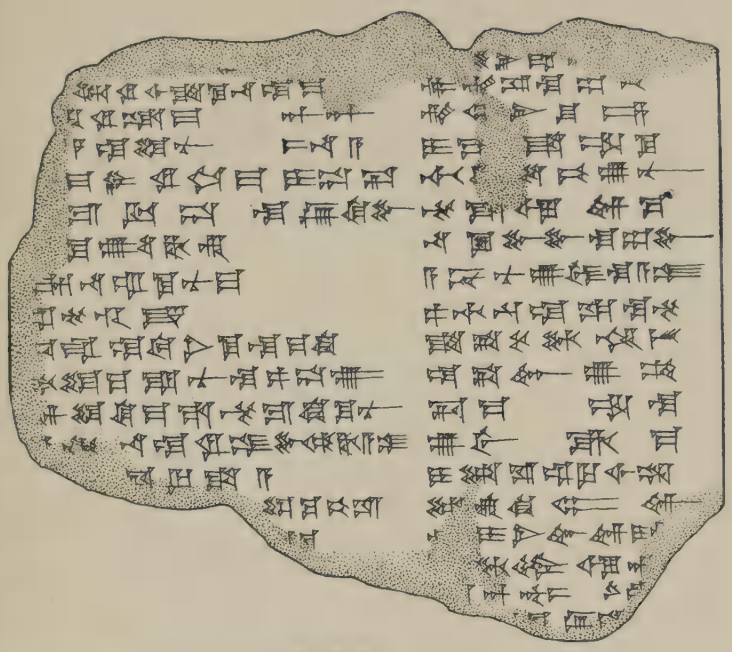


1. The tablet reads KU, i.e. addi; cf. Br., No. 10542.

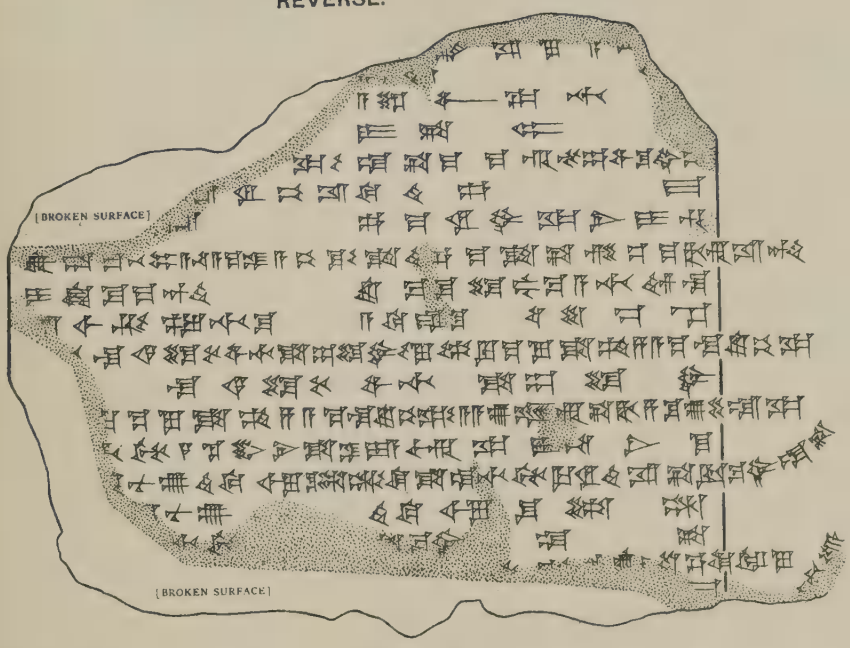
CREATION SERIES, TABLET II.

No. 38,396.

OBVERSE.



REVERSE.



Note. The Reverse of the tablet restores a considerable portion of the text of Tablet II, which is not known from other duplicates. The position of this new portion of the text is certain from its correspondence with some of the ends of lines preserved by K.4832 (see plate 5). The following is a transliteration and translation of the text:—

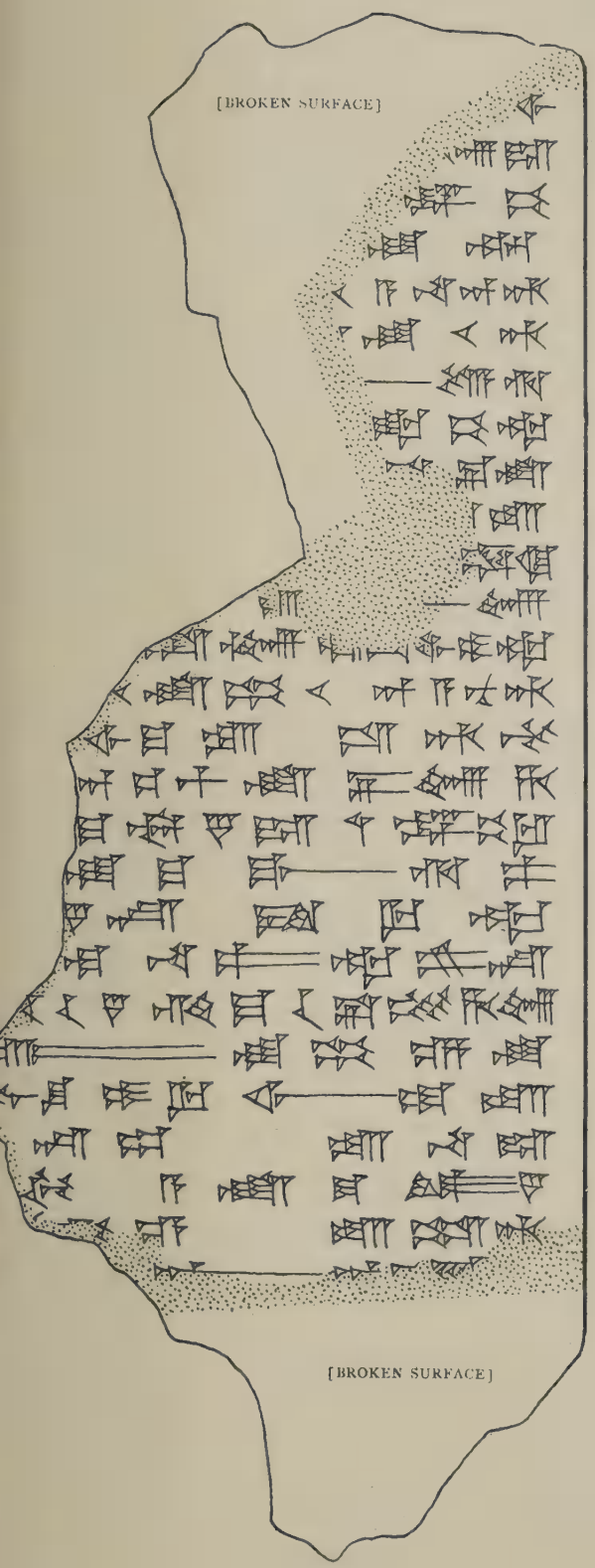
[. . . . .]	[. . . . .]
[. . . . .] a-šar pi-ris-ti-[šu]	[. . . . .] in the place of his decision
[. . . . .] i-ta-mi[1]-[šu]	[. . . . .] he spake unto him.
[. . . . . abi] -ka	"[. . . . .] thy father.
at-ta-ma ma-ri mu-nap-pi-šu[2] lib[3]-lib[-ba]	"Thou art my son, who maketh valiant his heart.
[. . . . . kit(?)-ru-bi-iš[4] ti-ši-e-ma	"[. . . . .] to the battle shalt thou draw nigh,
[. . . . .] e-ma-ru-uk-ka[5] ni-i-šu[6]	"[. . . . he that] shall behold thee shall have rest."
iḫ-du-ma be-lum a-na a-ma-tum a-bi-šu[7]	And the lord rejoiced at the word of his father,
it-ši-e-ma it-ta-zi-iz ma-ḫa-ri-iš[8] An-šar	and he drew nigh and stood before Anšar.
i-mur-ši-ma An-šar lib-ba-šu ta-ab-ba-a-ti im-la	Anšar beheld him and his heart was filled with joy,
[iḫ]-ši-ik šap-ti-šu a-di-ra-šu[9] ut-te-is-si	He kissed him on the lips, and his fear departed from him.
[a-bi][10] la šak-tu-mat pi-ti ša-ap-ta-uk[11]	"[O my father], let not the word of thy lips be overcome
lu-ul-lik-ma lu-ši-om-ma-a ma-la lib[12]-bi-ka	"let me go, that I may accomplish all that is in thy heart."
[An-šar][13] la šak-tu-mat pi-ti ša-ap-ta-uk[14]	"[O Anšar], let not the word of thy lips be overcome.
l[u-ul-lik-ma lu-ši-om-ma-a ma-la lib[15]-bi-ka	"Let me go, that I may accomplish all that is in thy heart."
ai-u zik-ri ta-ḫa-za-šu u-ši-ṣi-ka	"What man hath caused thee to go forth to battle?"[16]
[. . . Ti-amat ša ši-in-ni-ši-tum ia-ar-ka i-na kak-ki[17]	"[. . .] Tiamat, who is a woman, is armed and whetteth thee[17]
[. . .]-nu-u ši-di u ši-li-il[18]	"[. . .] rejoice and be glad;
ki-ši-ad Ti-amat ur-ru-ši-iš ta-kab-ba-as at-ta	"The neck of Tiamat shalt thou swiftly trample under foot.
[. . .]-nu-u ši-di u ši-li-il[18]	"[. . .] rejoice and be glad;
[ki-ši-ad Ti-amat ur-ru-ši-iš ta-kab-ba-as at-ta[19]	"The neck of Tiamat shalt thou swiftly trample under foot."

1. ka. me. 2. Var. [illegible]. 3. Var. [illegible]. 4. Var. bil. 5. Dupl. omits ka. 6. Var. ni-iḫ-ḫa. 7. Var. ri. 8. Conjectural restoration. 9. Var. šap-tuk. 10. Var. [illegible]. 11. Var. [illegible]. 12. Var. lil. 13. Of the rest of the text only the following ends of lines are preserved:—[. . . -ki ur-ru], [. . .] iḫ [.] te-e-ki el-la (var. i); [. . . -ter di-niḫ]; the traces of [. . . zik-kar, which run round upon the edge of the tablet, correspond to l. 29 of K.4832. 14. It is clear that at this point Marduk ceases to speak, and that Anšar's answer begins with the following line. 15. Literally, "Of what man has his battle caused thee to go forth?" 16. ia-ar-ka I take as the Pres. Kal from arru, followed by the direct accusative.

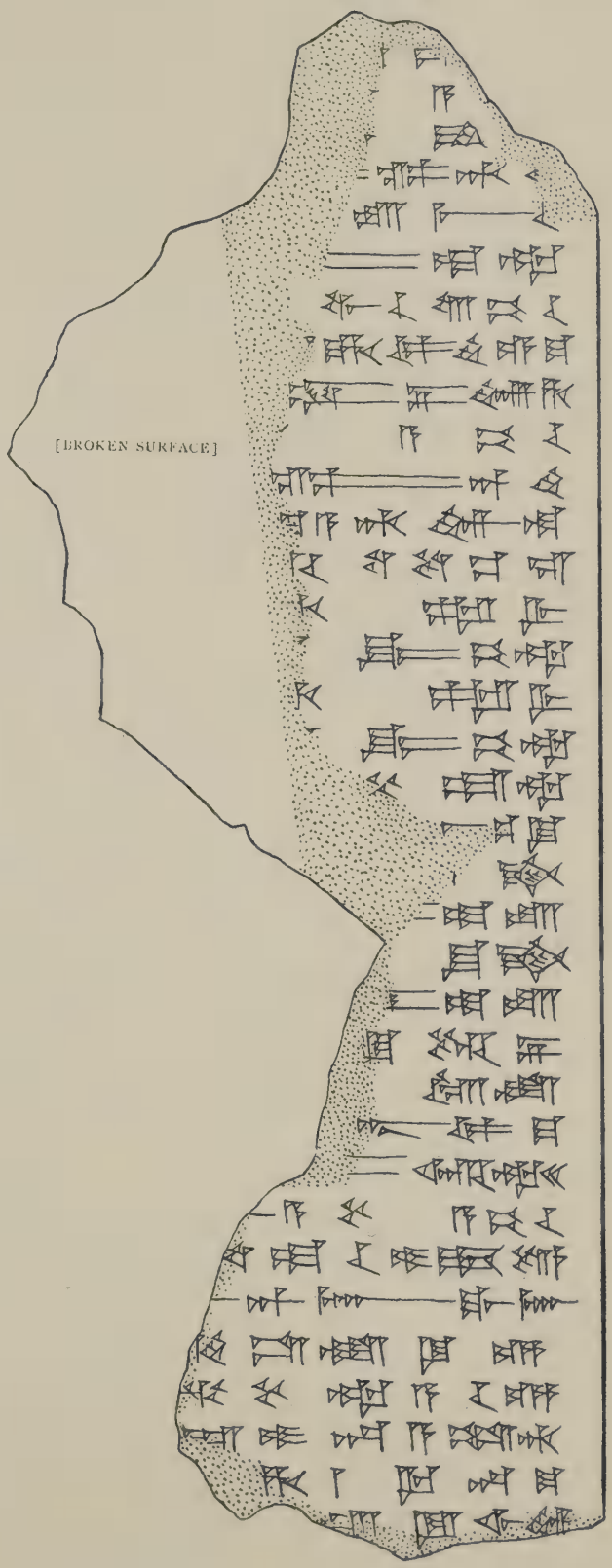
CREATION SERIES, TABLET II.

K. 4832.

OBVERSE.



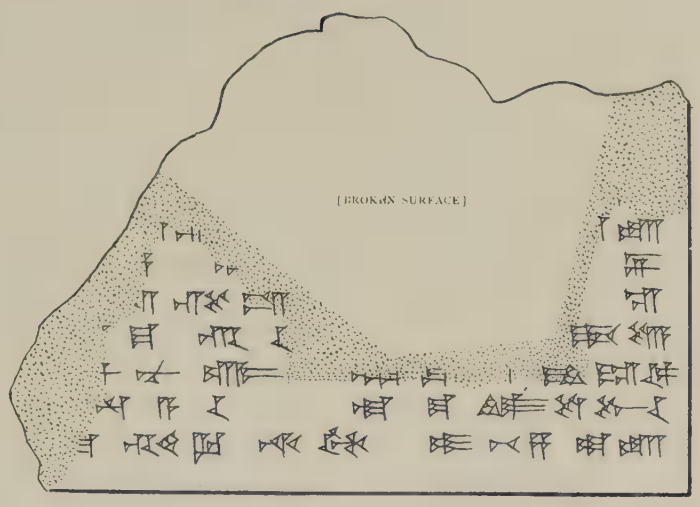
REVERSE.



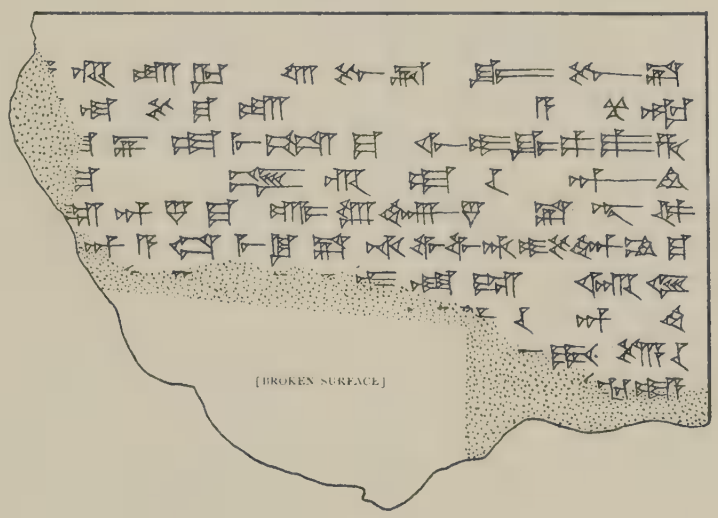
CREATION SERIES, TABLET II.

79-7-8, 178.

OBVERSE.

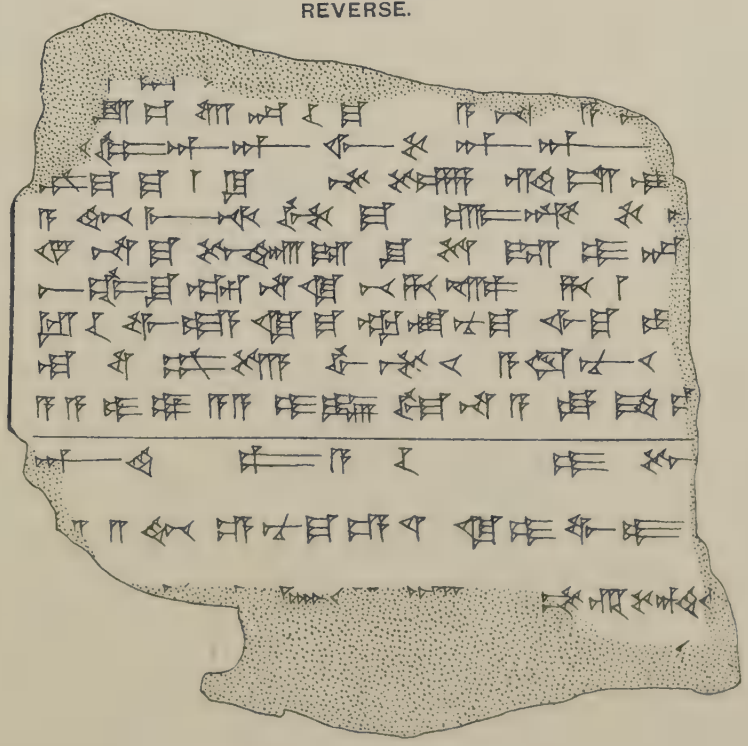


REVERSE.

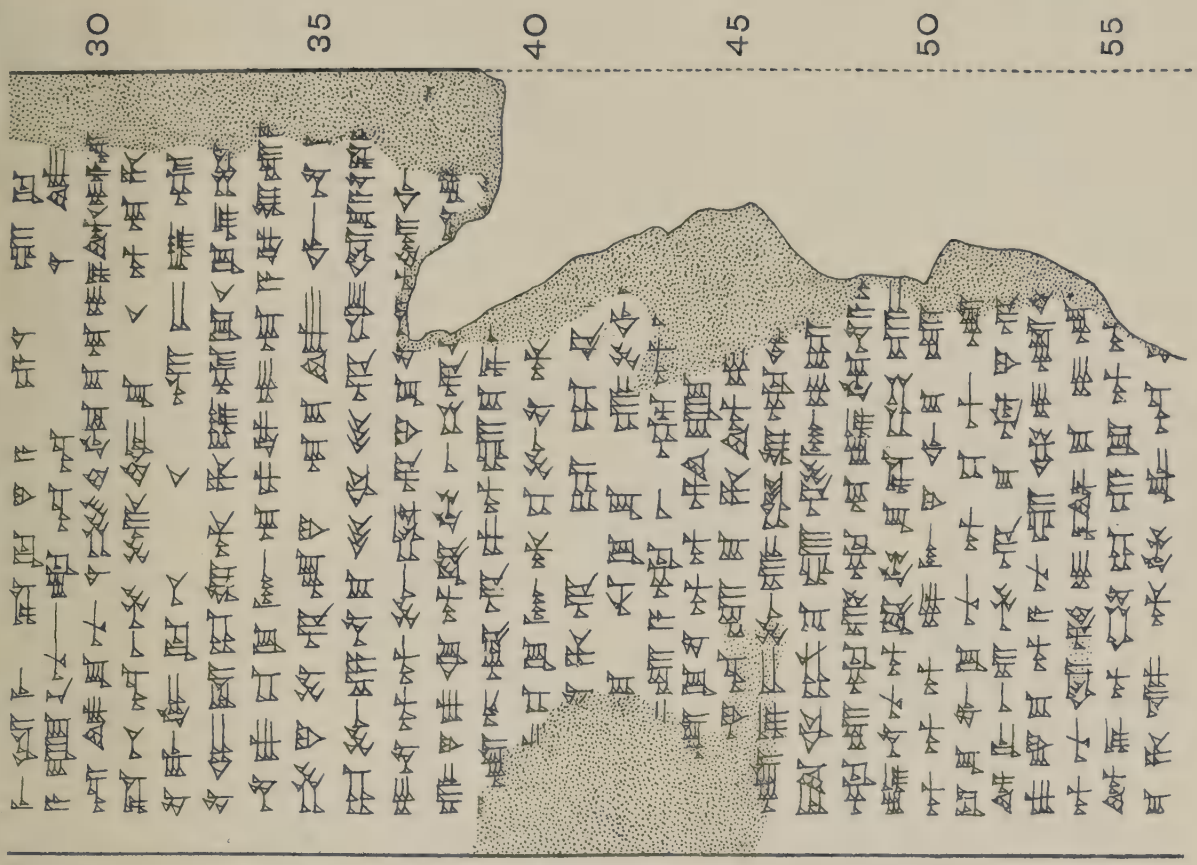


K. 292.

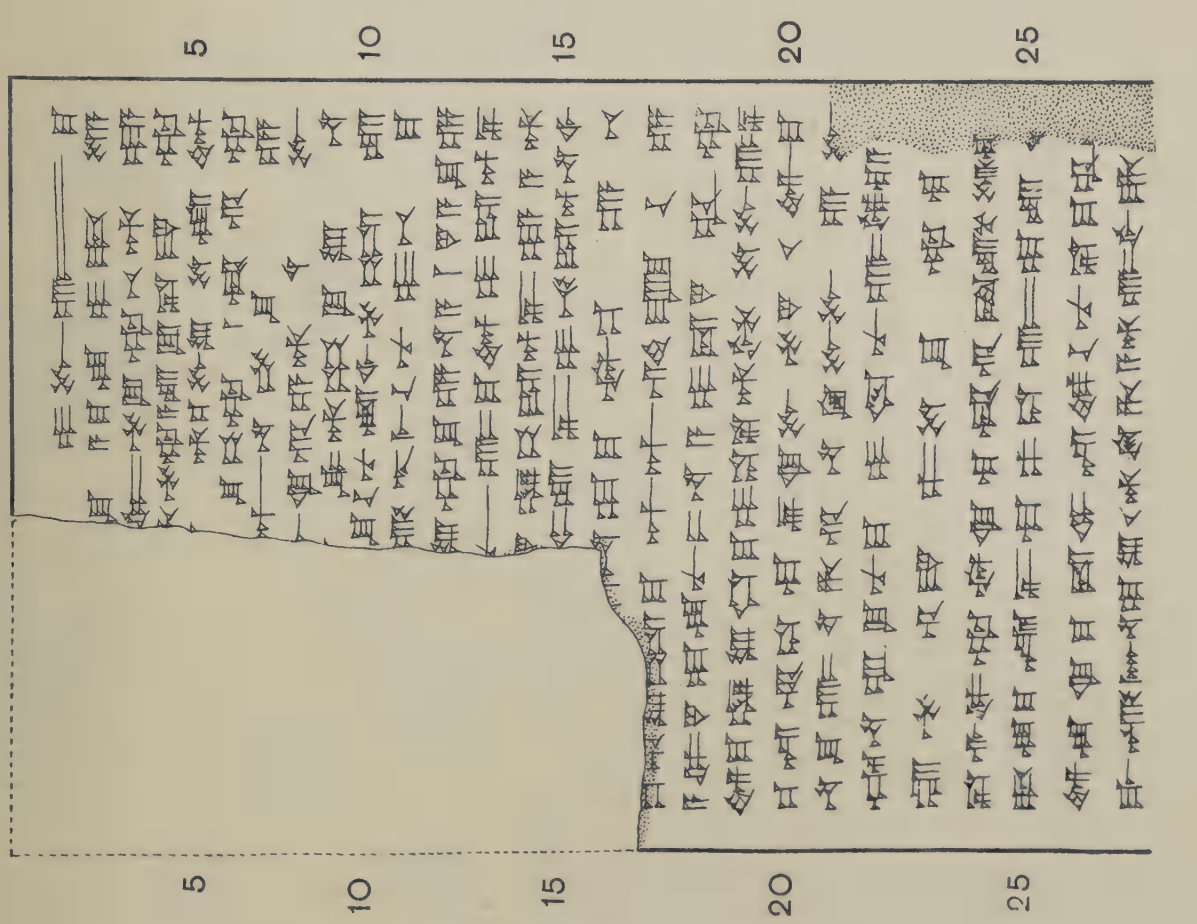
REVERSE.



CREATION SERIES, TABLET III.

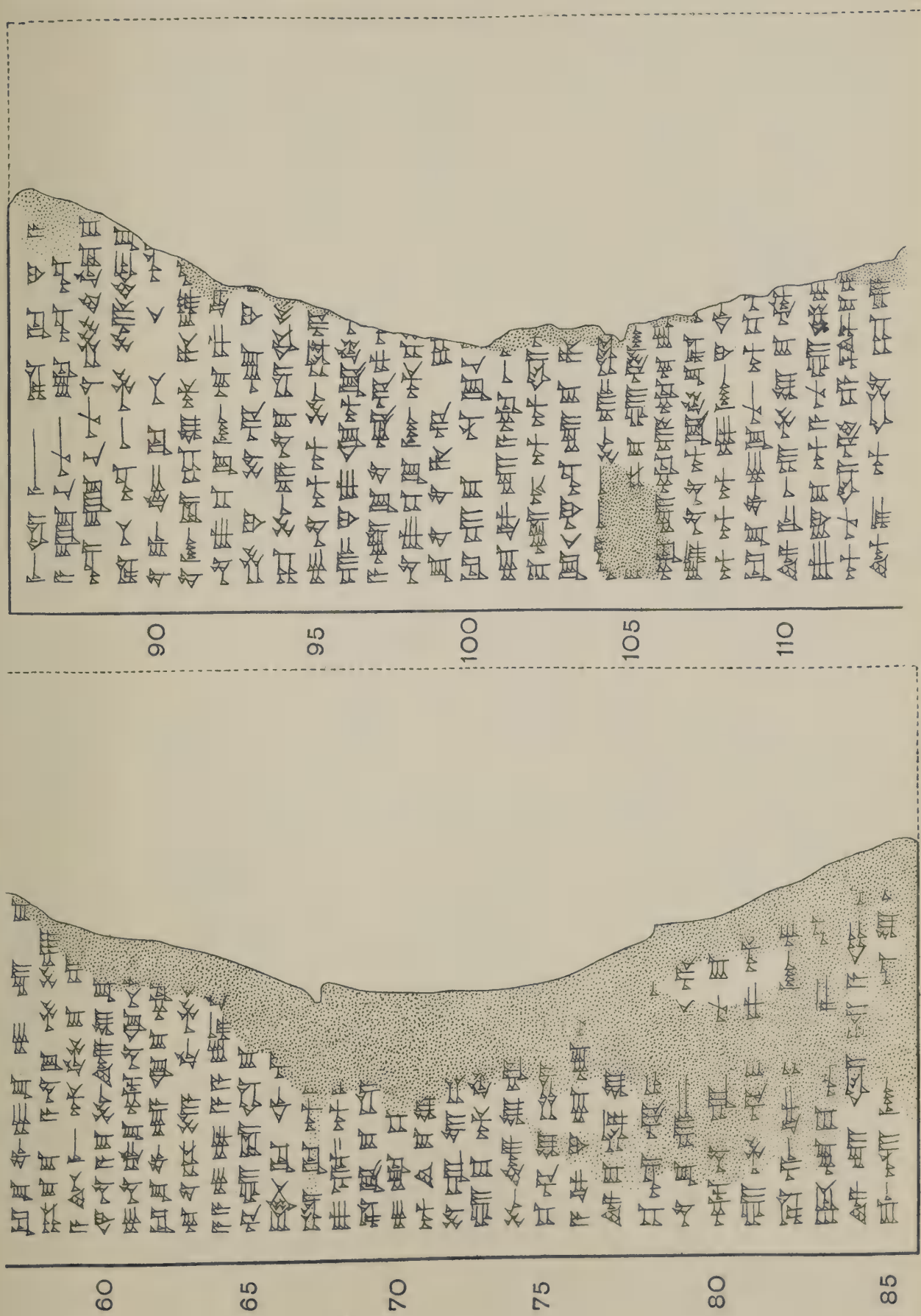


OBVERSE. K. 3473 + 79-7-8, 296 + Rm. 615 + K. 4832. OBVERSE. (CONTINUED.)



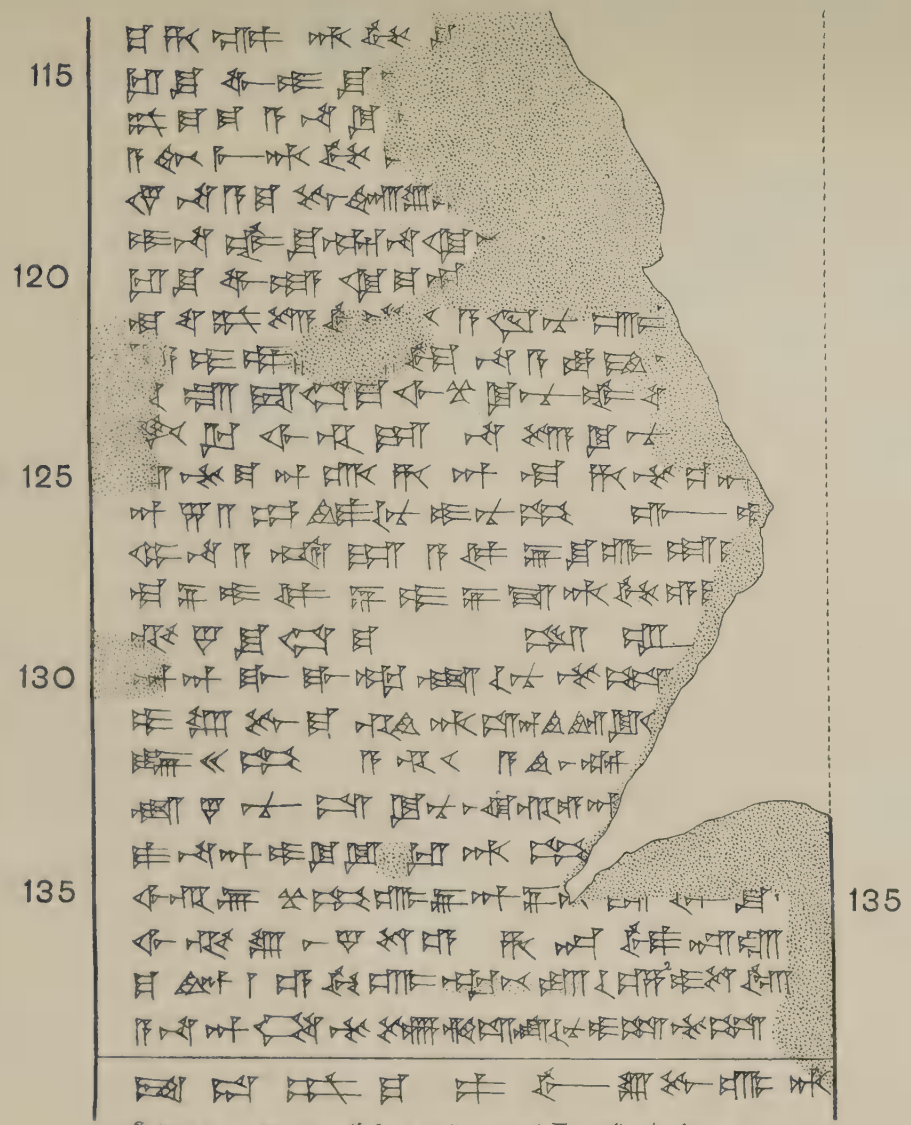
CREATION SERIES, TABLET III.

OBVERSE. (CONTINUED.) K. 3473 + 79-7-8, 296 + Rm. 615 + K. 4832. REVERSE.



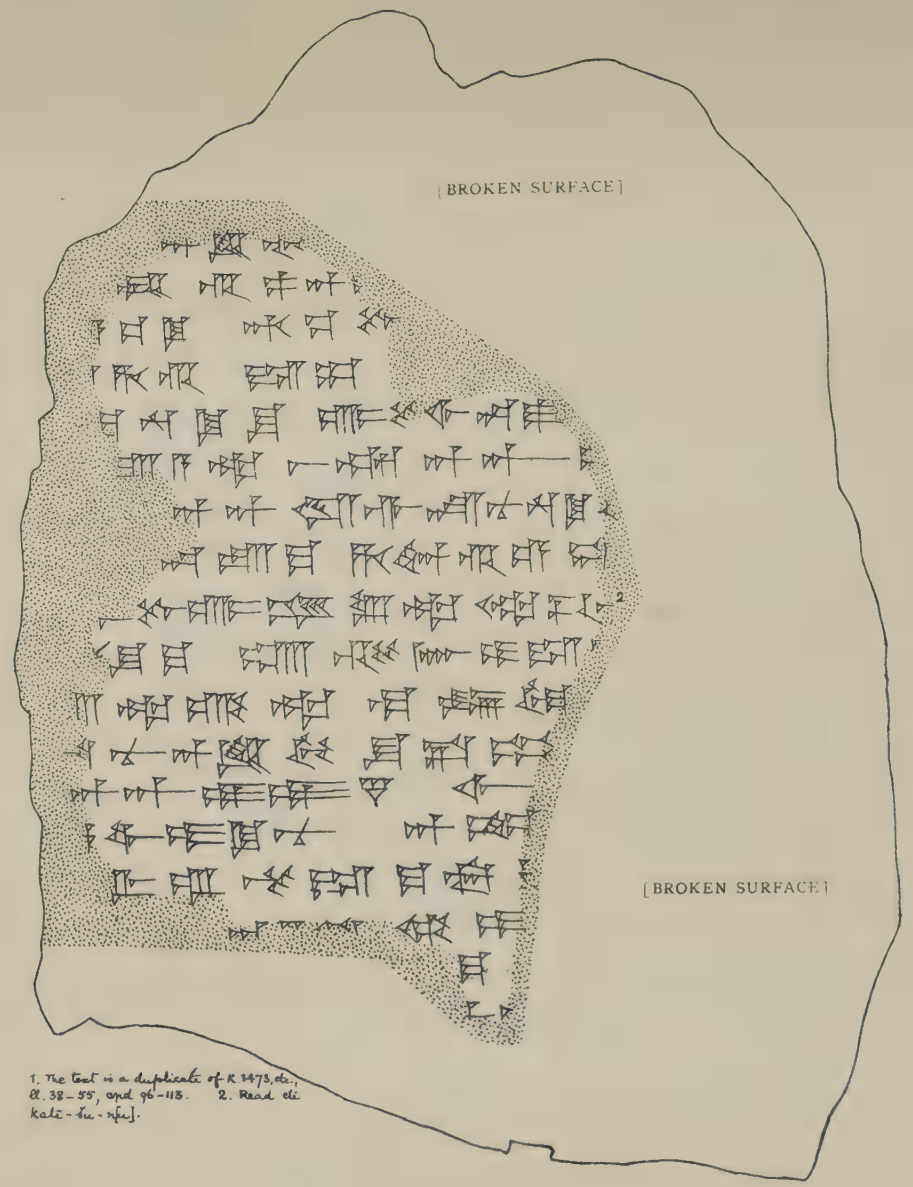
K. 3473 + 79-7-8, 296 + Rm. 615 + K. 4832.

REVERSE. (CONTINUED.)



1. The traces suggest the reading [ḫur]-ra-di-šu-[un]. 2. The reading ka-bit-ta-šu-un is certain.

K. 6650.

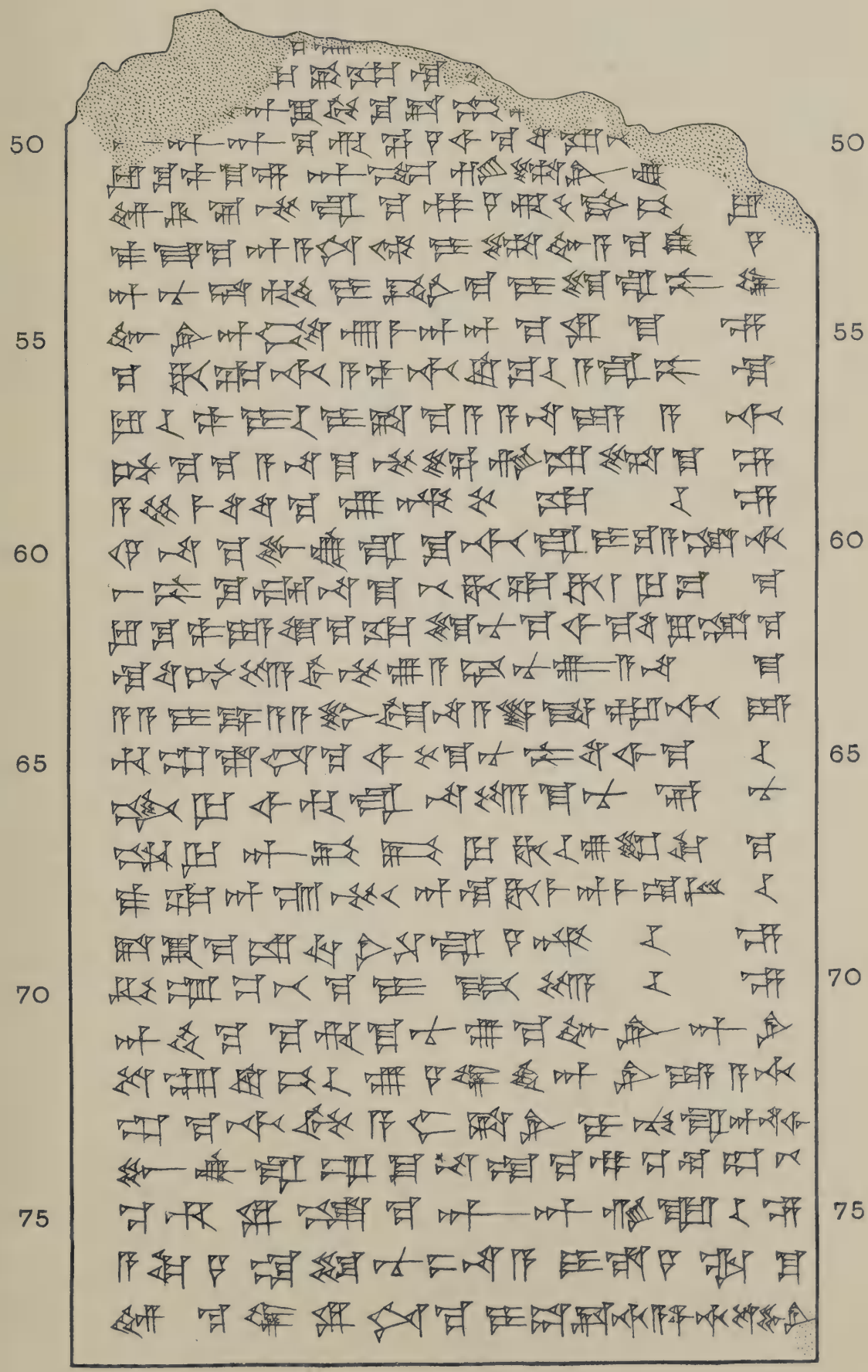


1. The text is a duplicate of K. 3473, etc., ll. 38–55, and 96–113. 2. Read di kalī-šu-nu[ti].

CREATION SERIES, TABLET III.

No. 93,017 [88-4 19, 13].

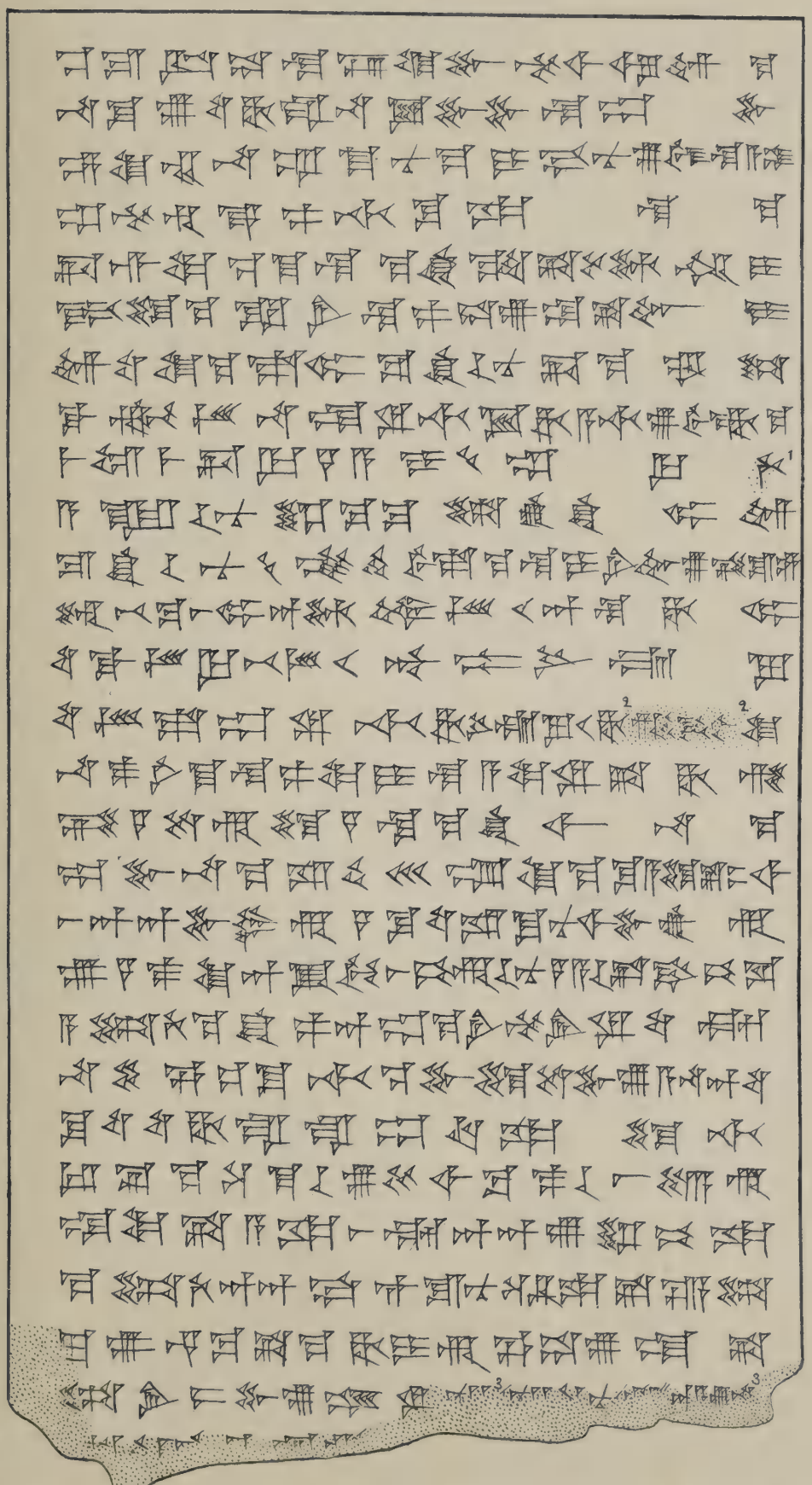
OBVERSE.



CREATION SERIES, TABLET III.

No. 93,017 [88-4-19, 13].

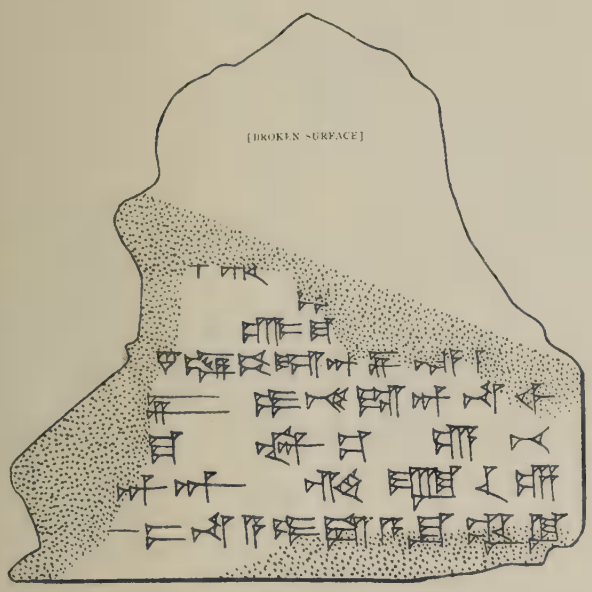
REVERSE.

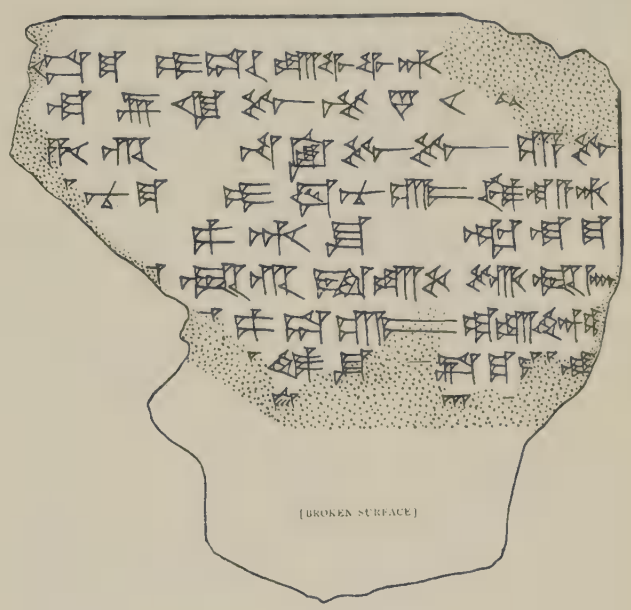


1. The sign is [illegible], not [illegible]; read um-daš-šil. 2. Partly erased. 3. Read eli kat-šu-nu [u(?)···] ^{ilu}A-nun-na-[ki].

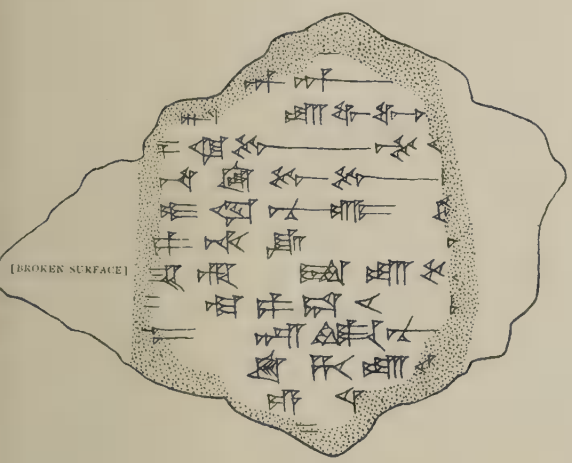
CREATION SERIES, TABLET III.

OBVERSE. K. 8575. REVERSE.

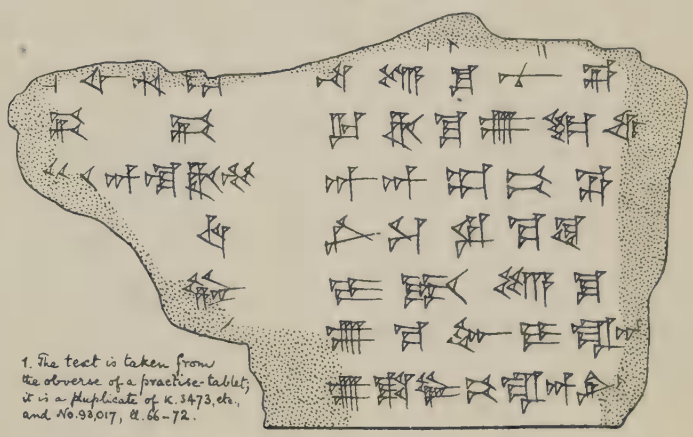




K. 8524.



83-1-18, 2116.[1]



1. The text is taken from the obverse of a practise-tablet; it is a duplicate of K. 3473, etc., and No. 93,017, ll. 66–72.

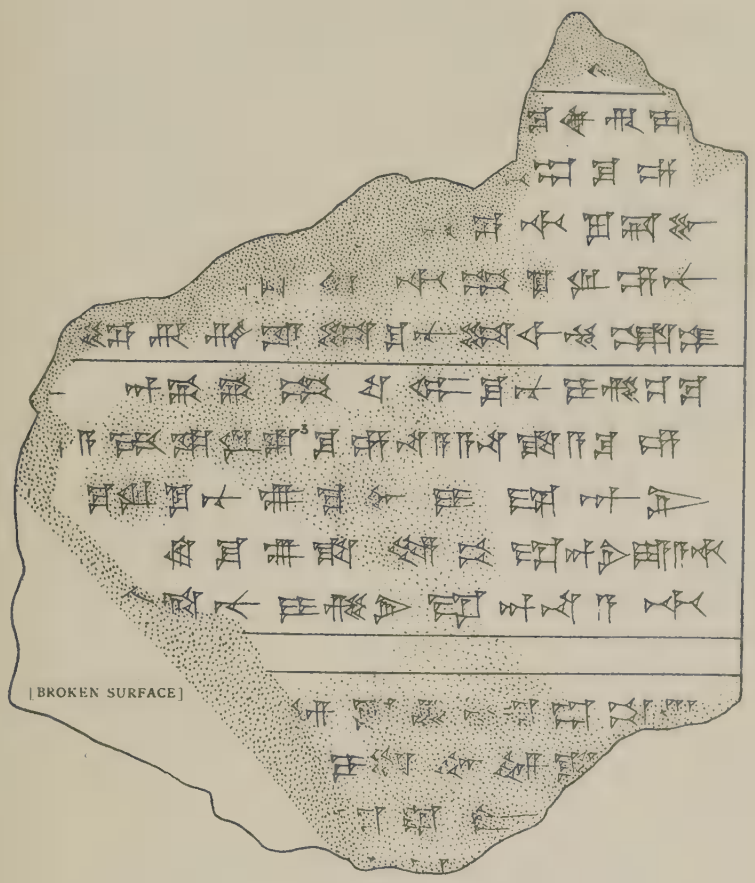
83-1-18, 1868.

1. The text is an extract from a practise tablet, it is a duplicate of K. 3473, etc., ll. 19–26, and 77–84.

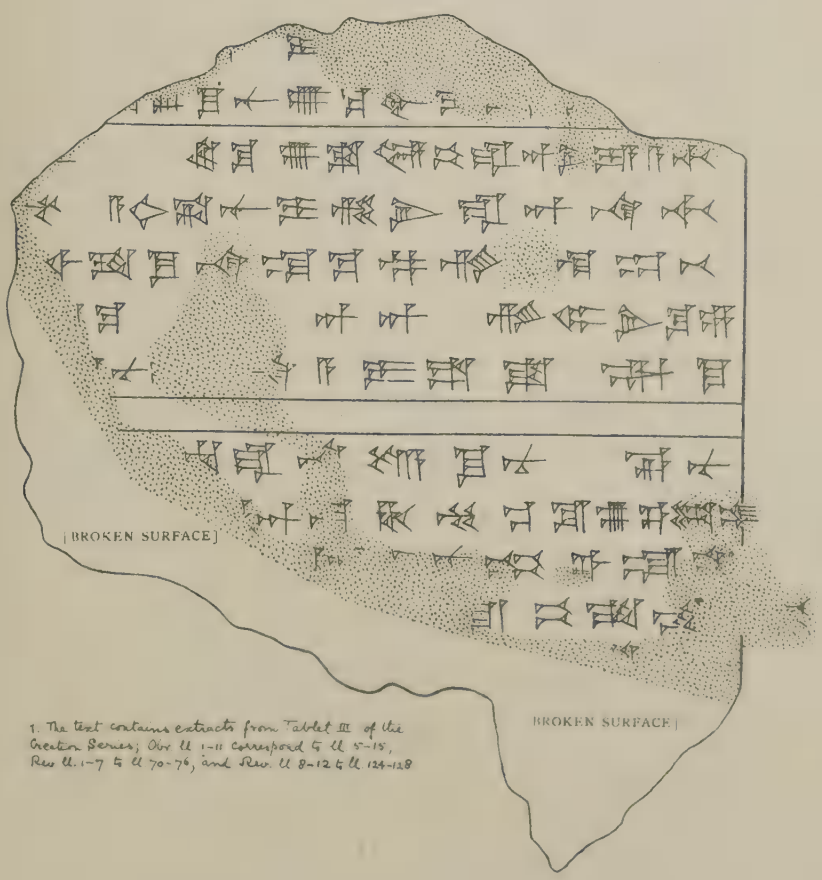
CREATION SERIES, TABLET III.

82-9-18, 1403.[1]

OBVERSE.



REVERSE.

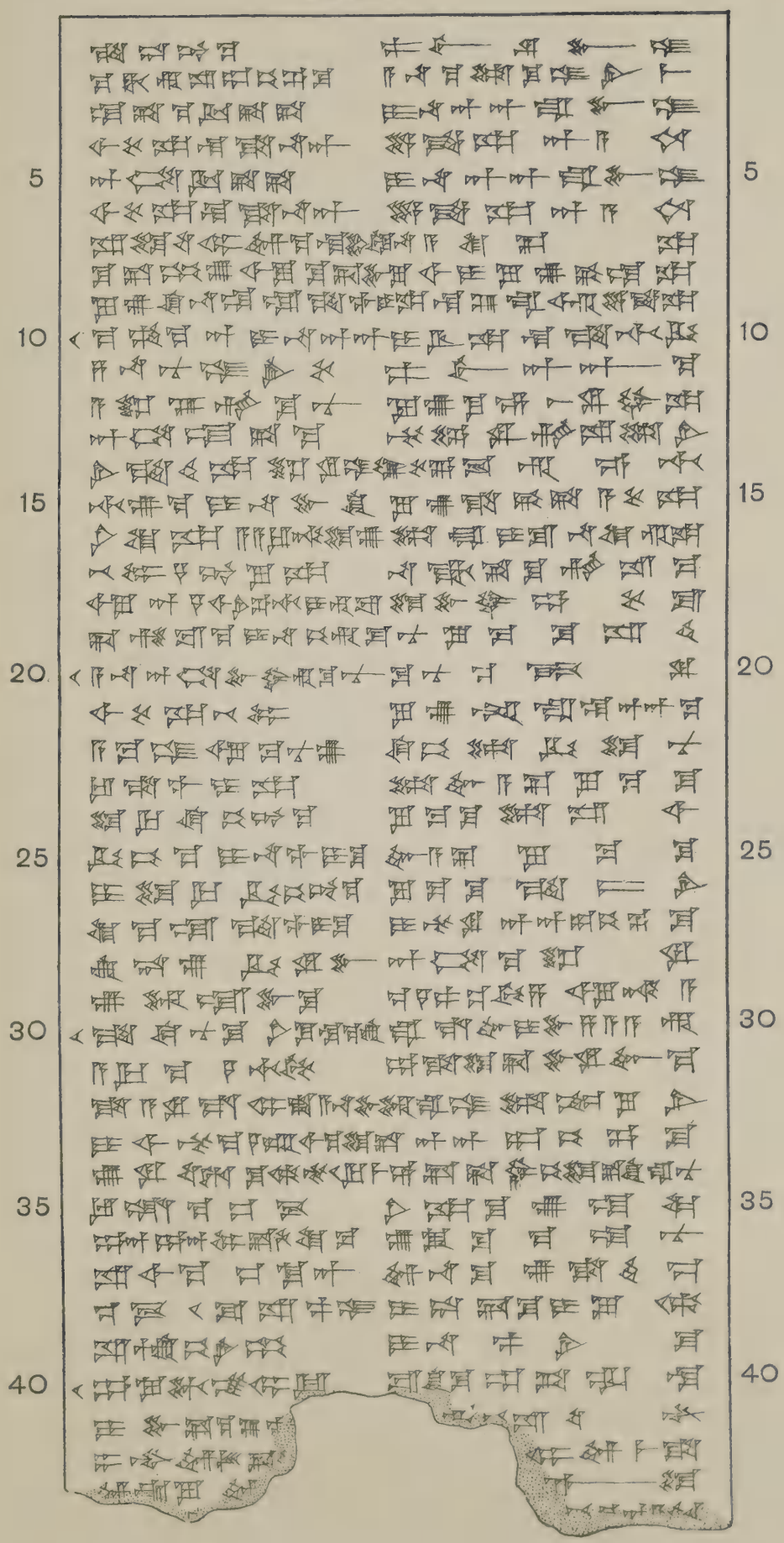


1. The text contains extracts from Tablet III of the Creation Series; Obv ll 1-11 correspond to ll 5-15, Rev ll. 1-7 to ll 70-76, and Rev. ll 8-12 to ll 124-128

CREATION SERIES, TABLET IV.

No. 93,016 [82-9-18, 3737].

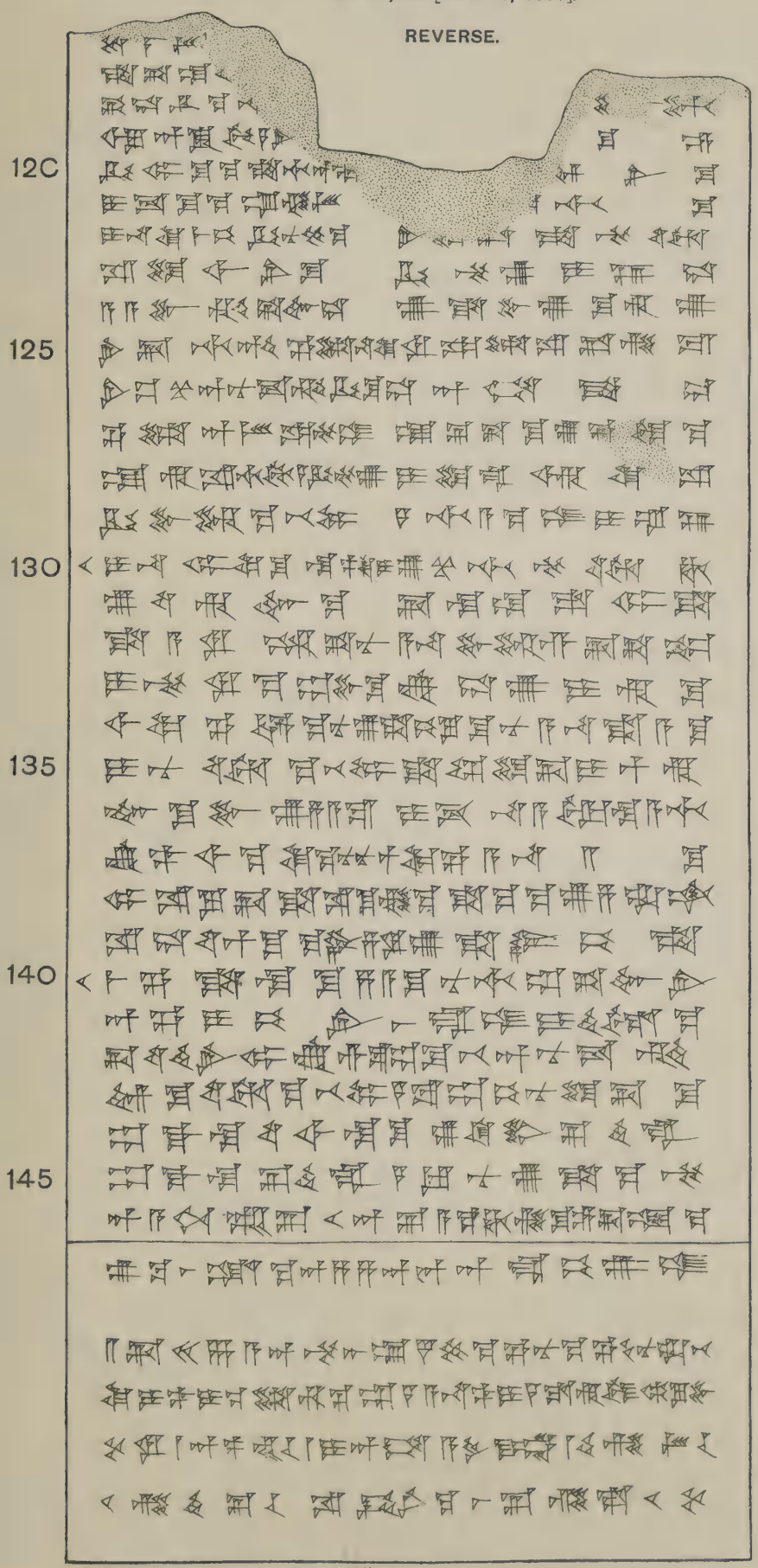
OBVERSE.



CREATION SERIES, TABLET IV.

No. 93,016 [82-9-18, 3737].

REVERSE.

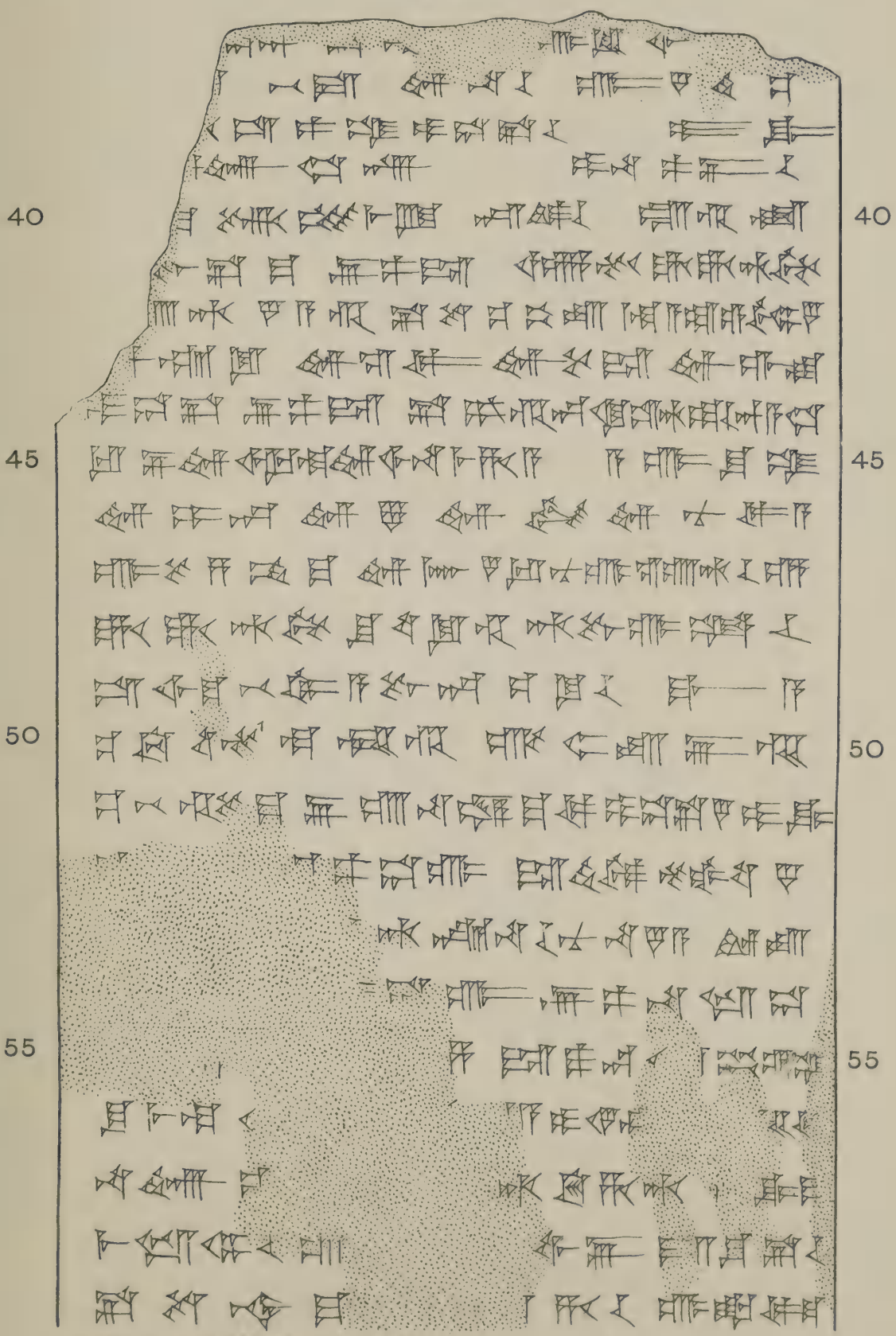


1. The text reads clearly TE-LAL-MEŠ, i.e. galle[H]

CREATION SERIES, TABLET IV.

K. 3437 + Rm. 641.

OBVERSE.

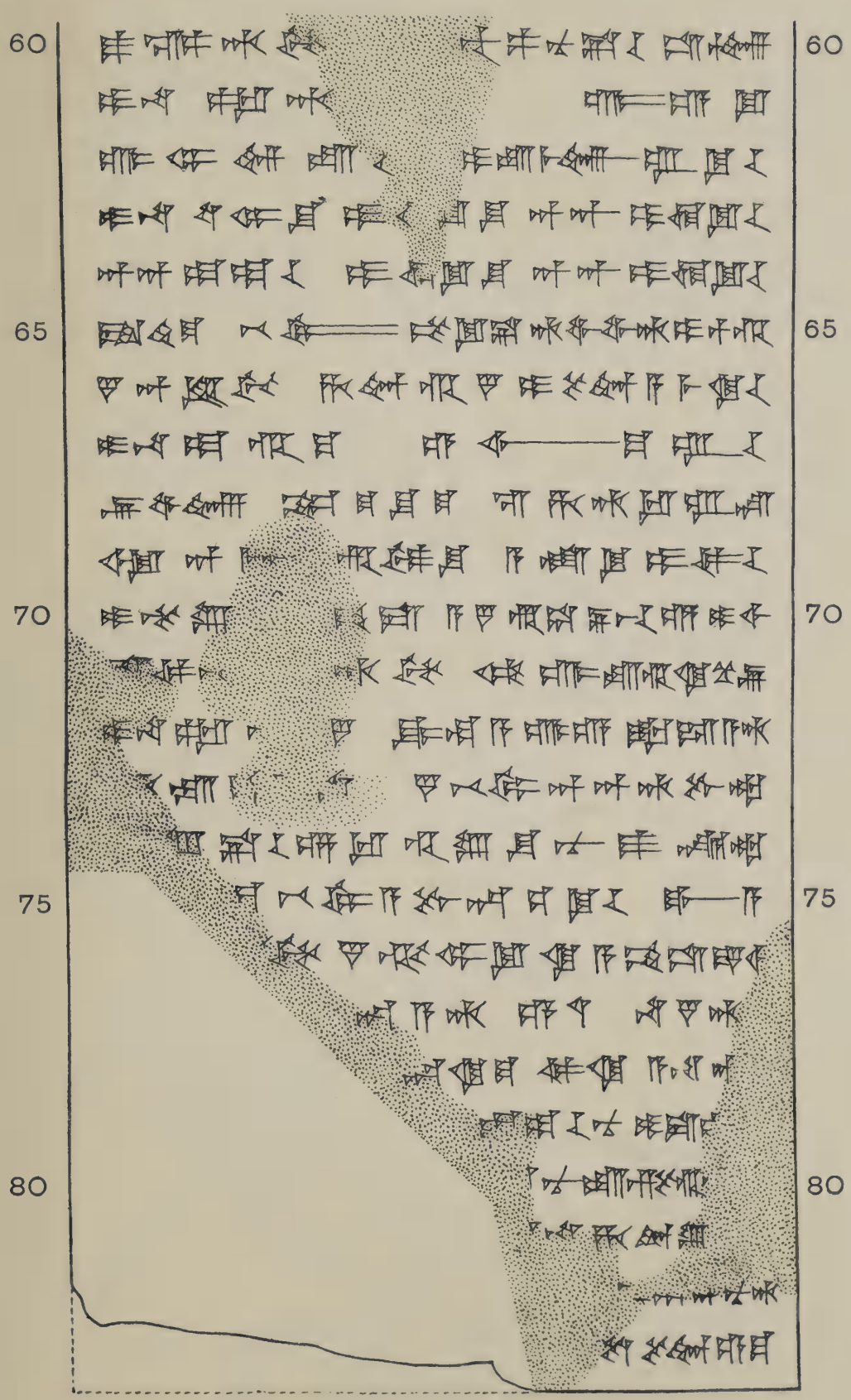


1. The text reads , not

CREATION SERIES, TABLET IV.

K. 3437 + Rm. 641.

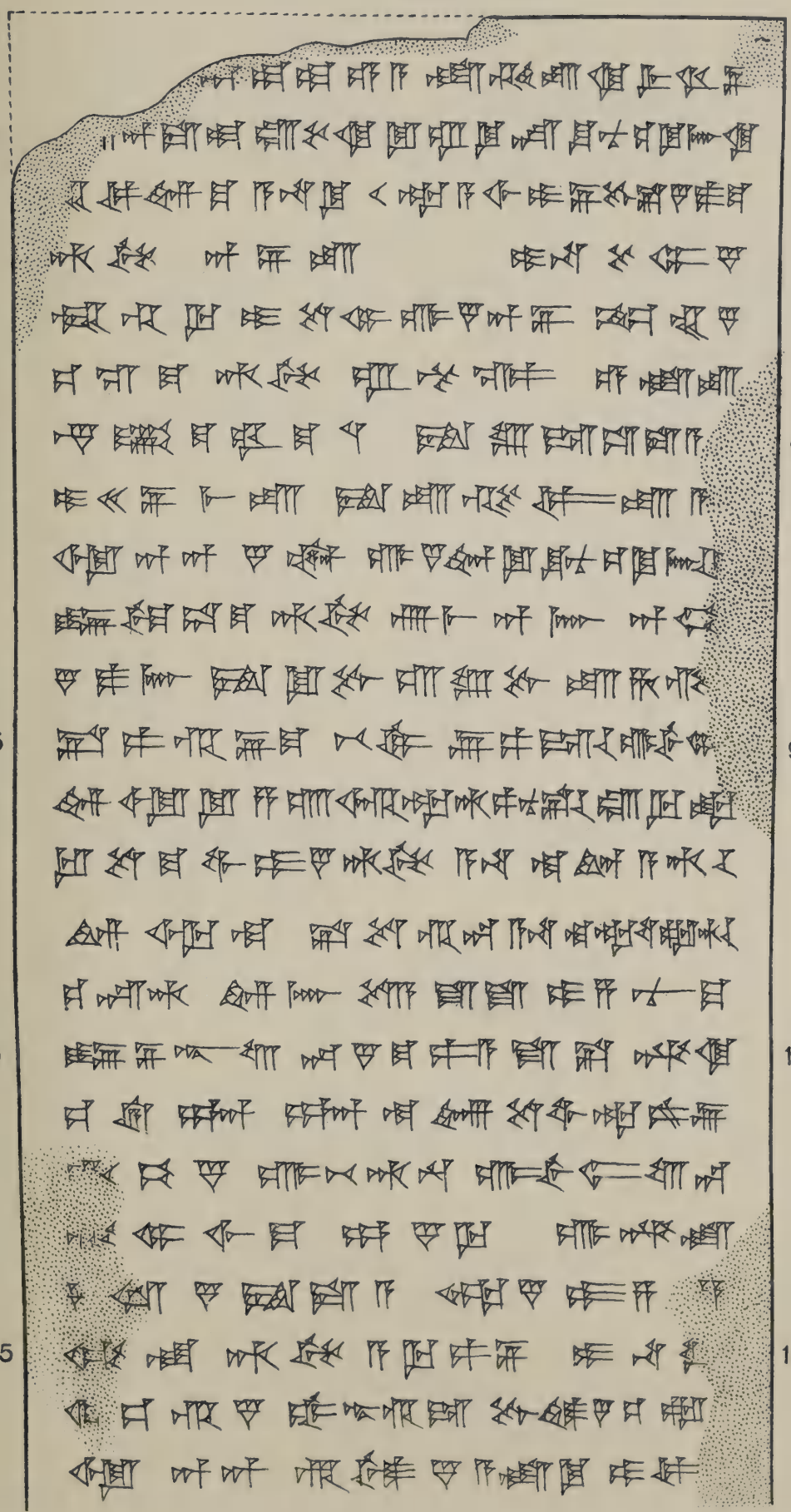
OBVERSE. (CONTINUED.)



CREATION SERIES, TABLET IV.

K. 3437 + Rm. 641.

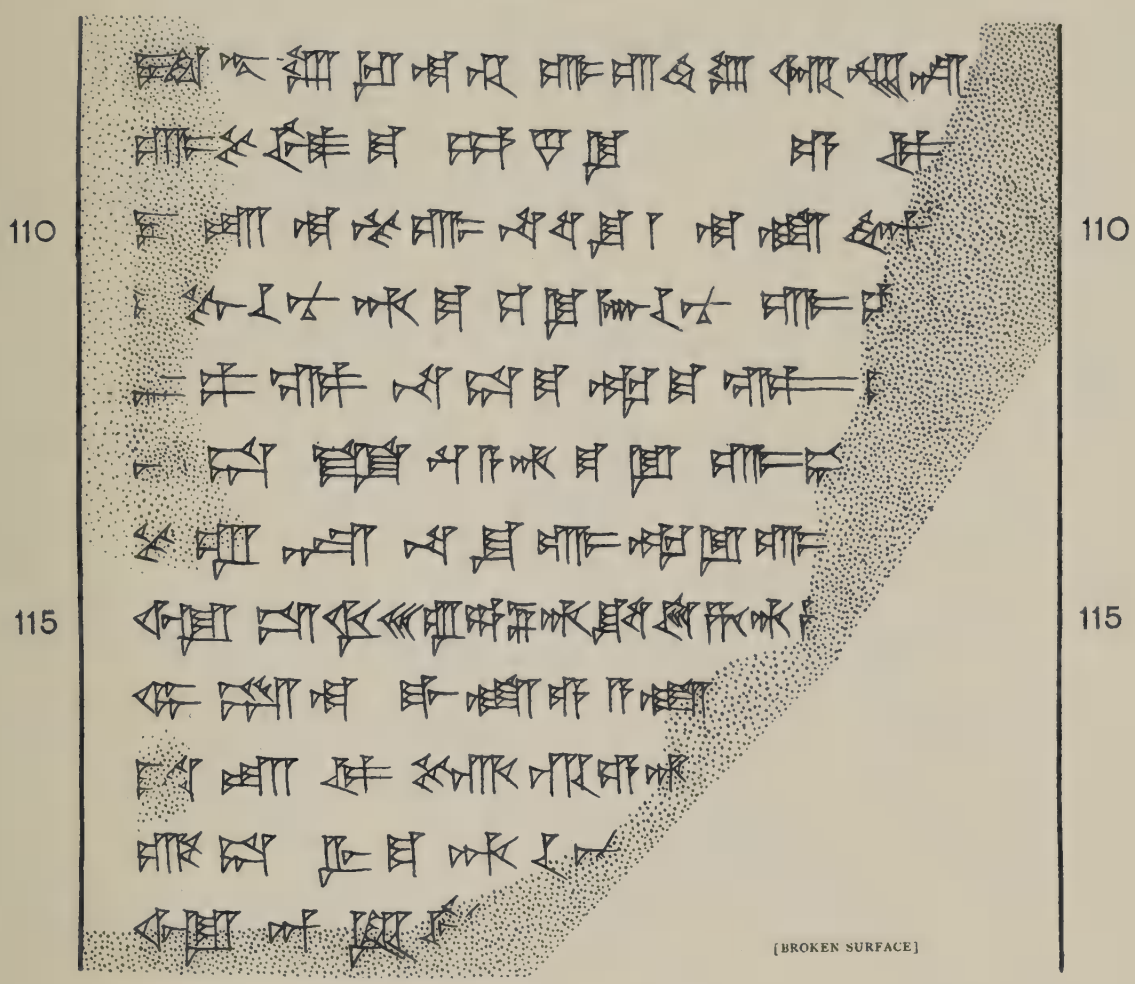
REVERSE.



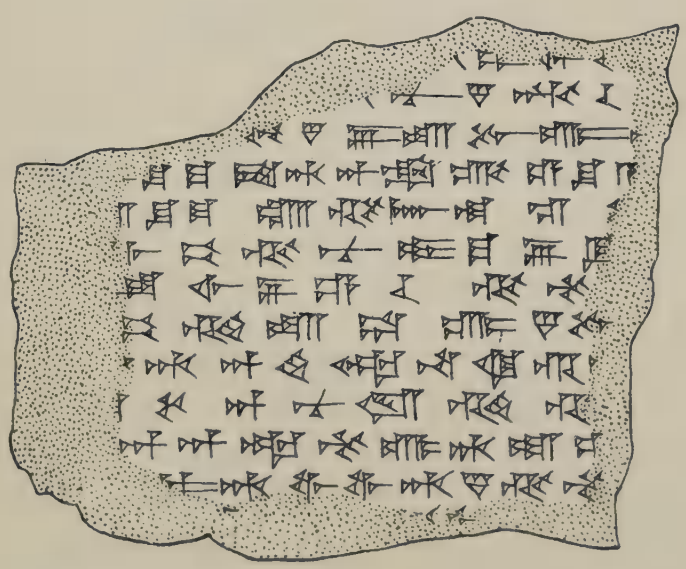
CREATION SERIES, TABLET IV.

K. 3437 + Rm. 641.

REVERSE. (CONTINUED.)



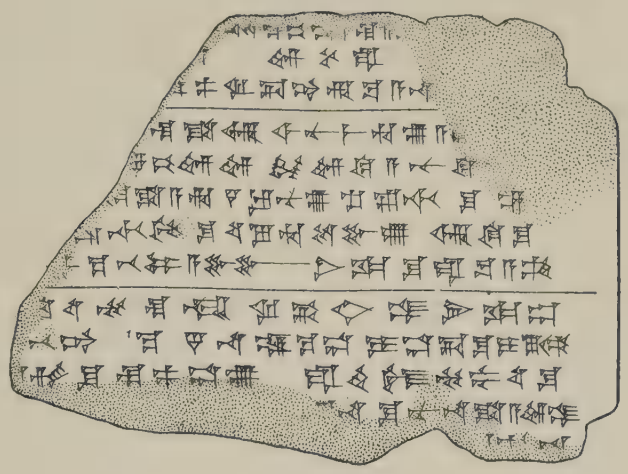
Rm. 2, 83.



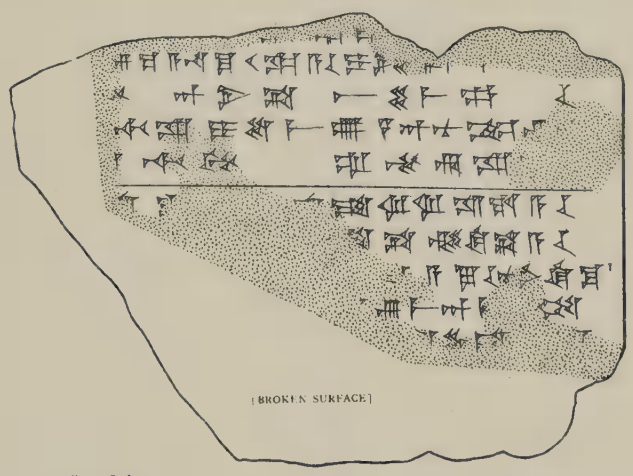
CREATION SERIES, TABLET IV.

No. 93,051.

OBVERSE.

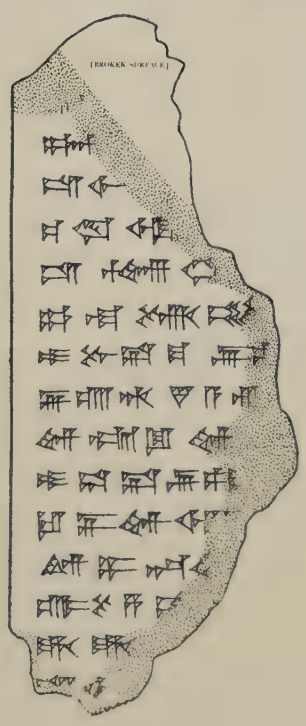


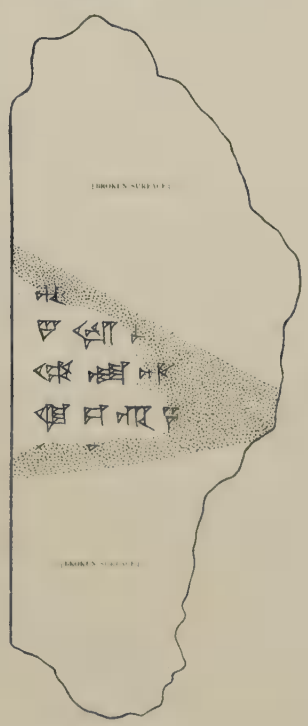
REVERSE.



1. *Sic.*

OBVERSE. 79-7-8, 251. REVERSE.

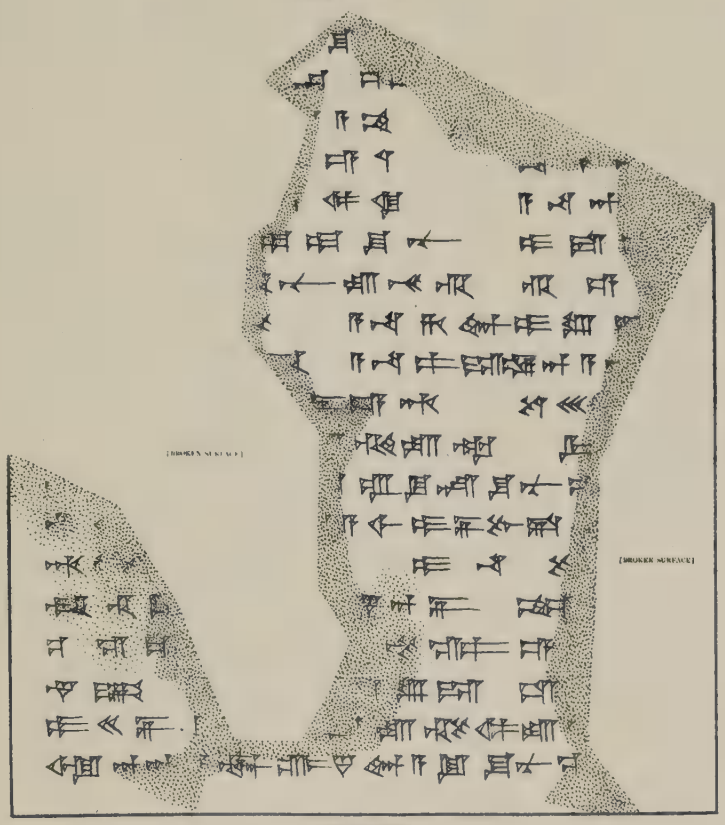




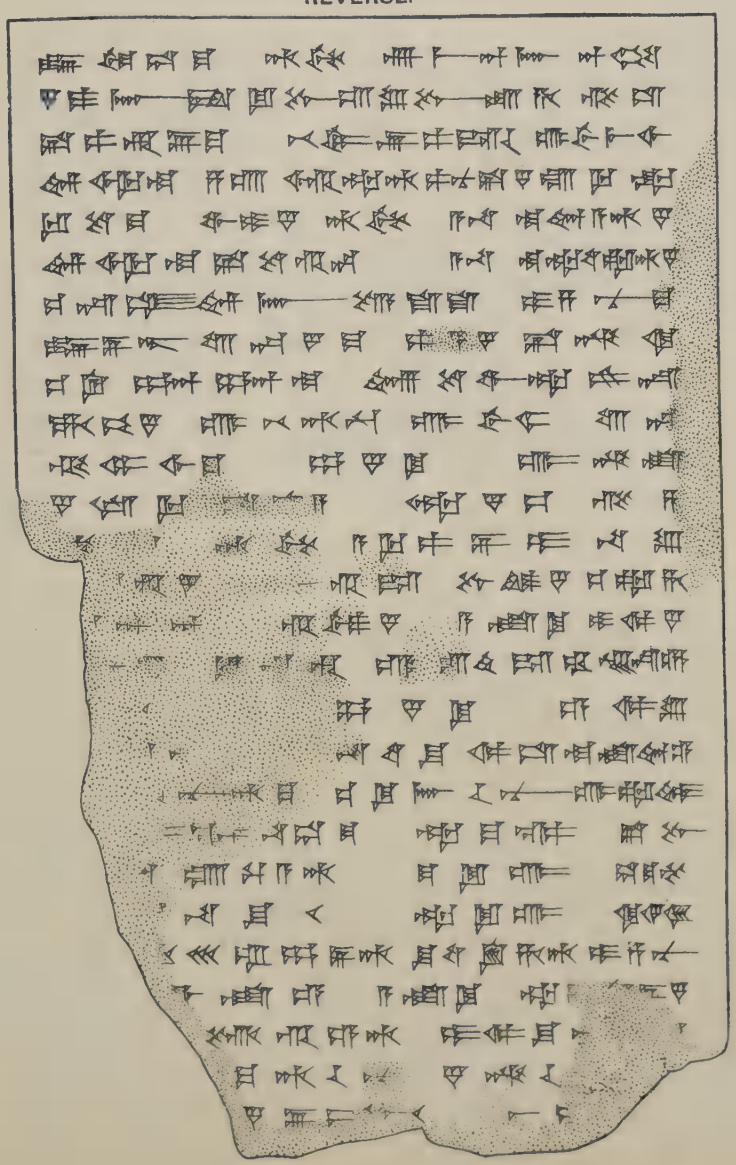
CREATION SERIES, TABLET IV.

K. 5420,c.

OBVERSE.



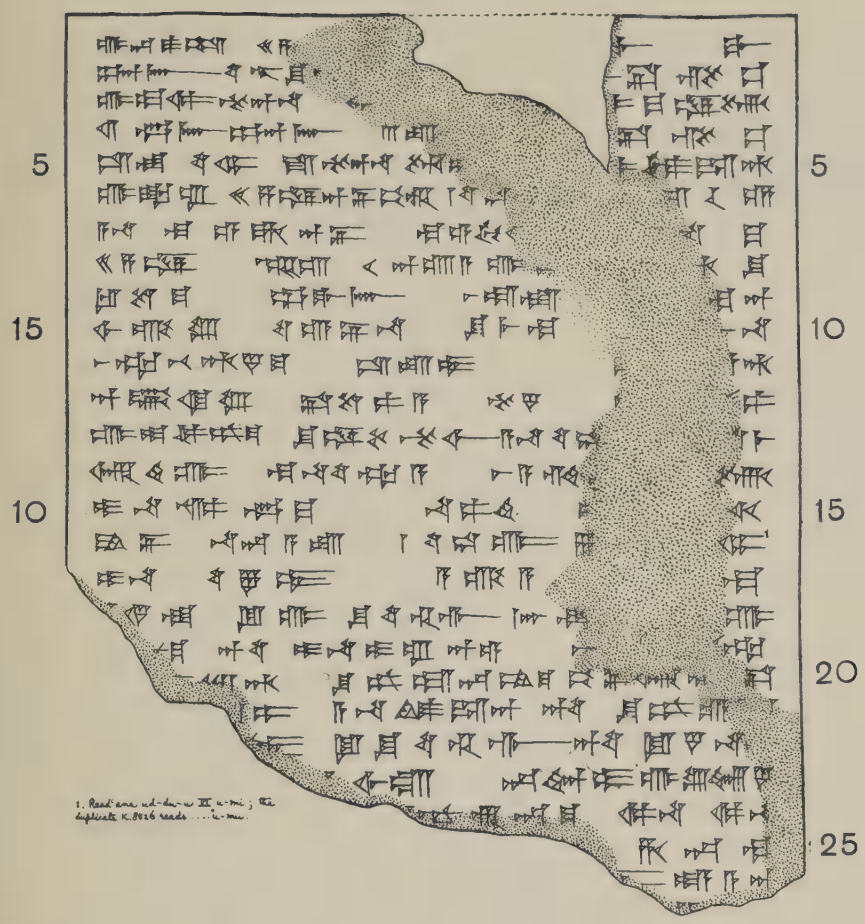
REVERSE.



CREATION SERIES, TABLET V.

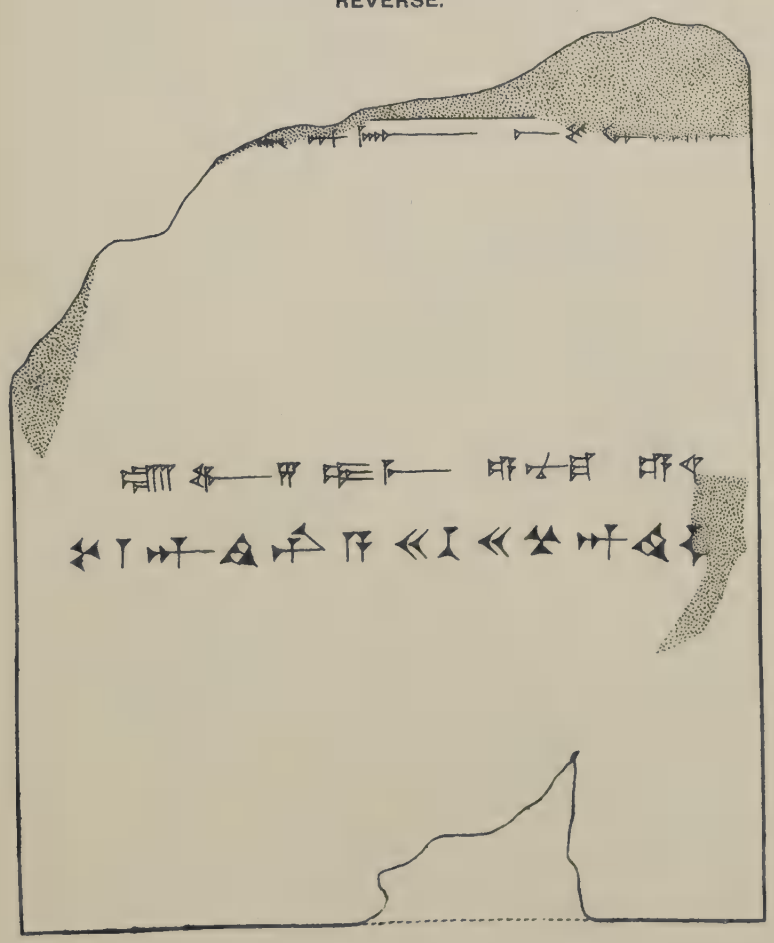
K. 3567 + K. 8588.

OBVERSE.



1. Read ana ul-du-u II u-mi; the duplicate K.8916 reads ....u-mu.

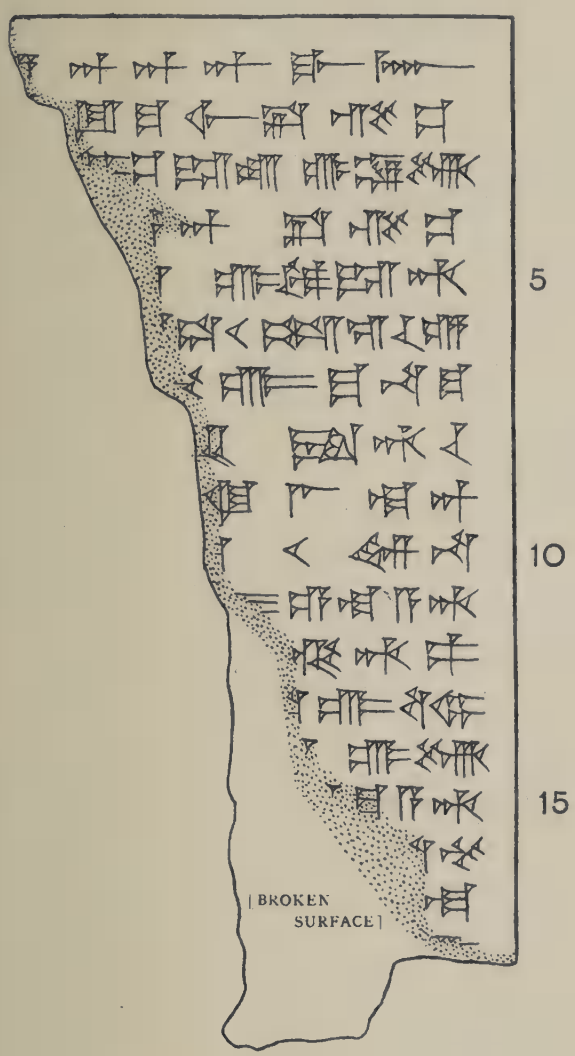
REVERSE.



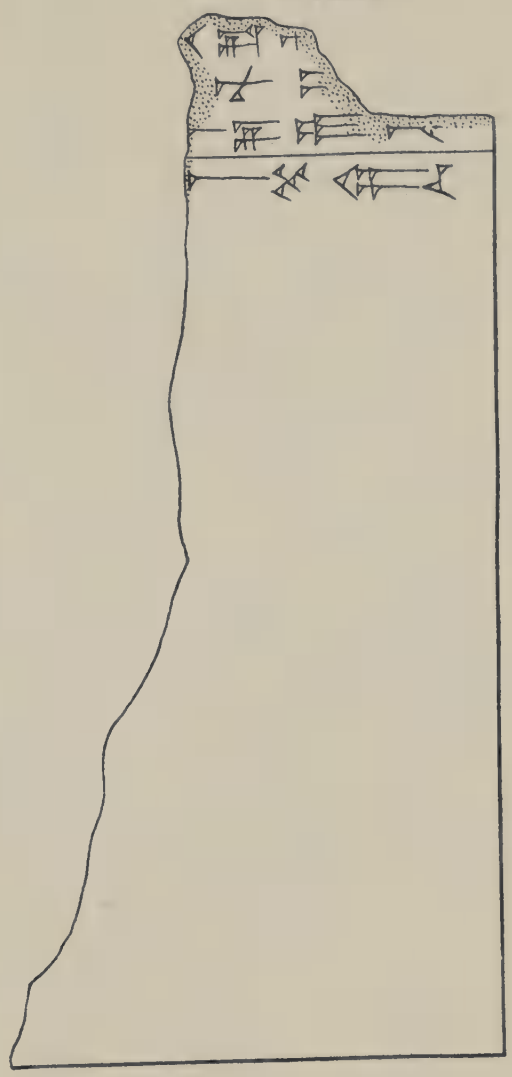
CREATION SERIES, TABLET V.

K. 8526.

OBVERSE.

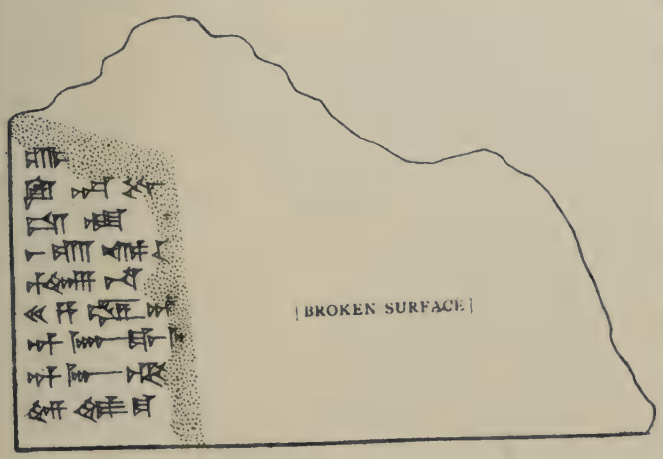


REVERSE.

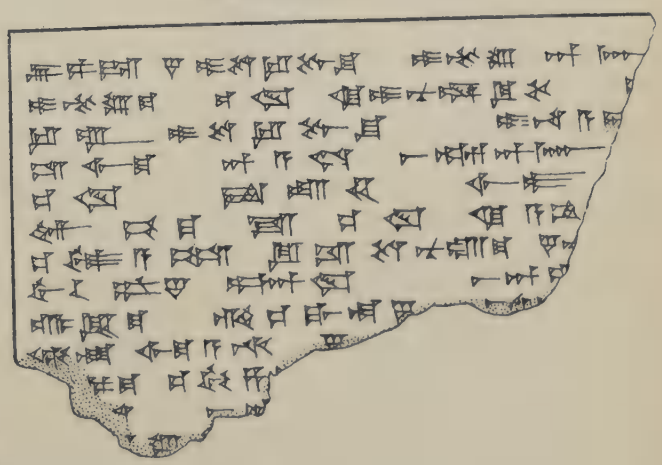


K. 3449, *a*.

OBVERSE.

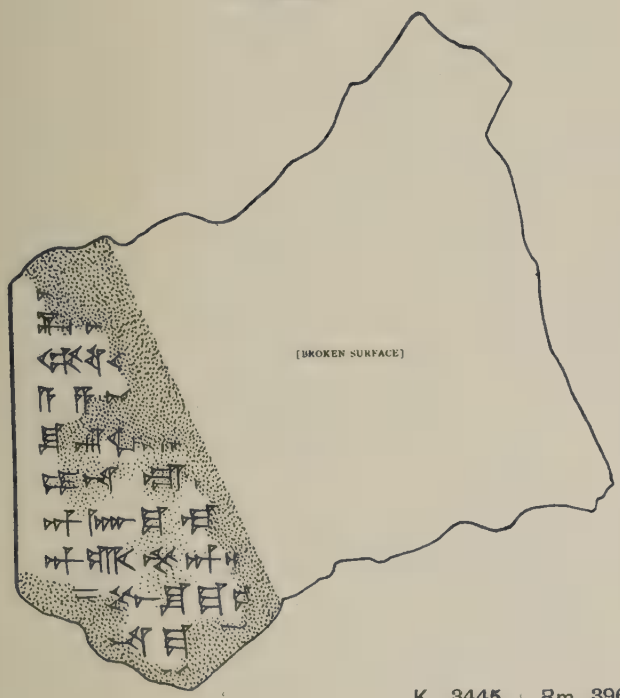


REVERSE.



CREATION SERIES, UNNUMBERED TABLETS.

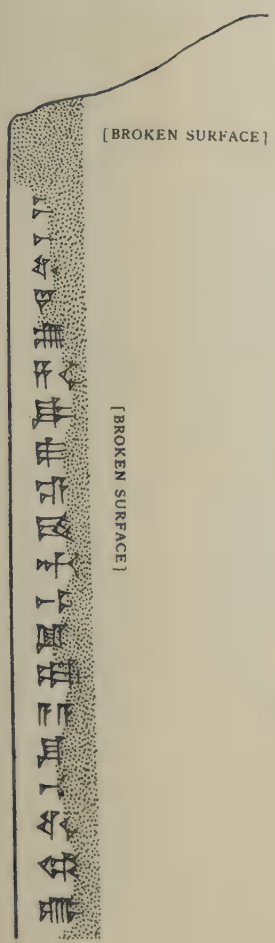
K. 14949.



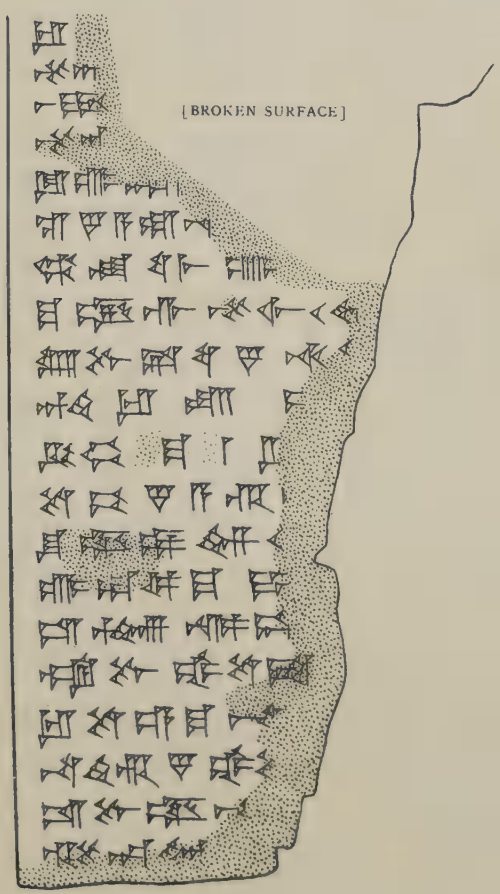
K. 12000, *b*.

K. 3445 + Rm. 396.

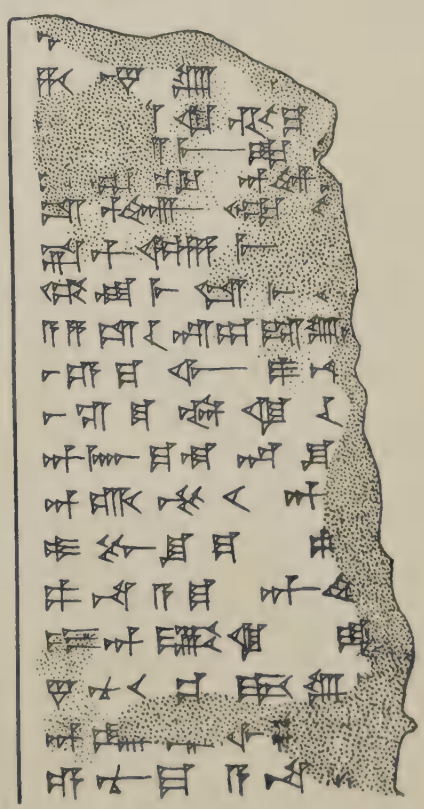
OBVERSE.



OBVERSE (CONTINUED.)



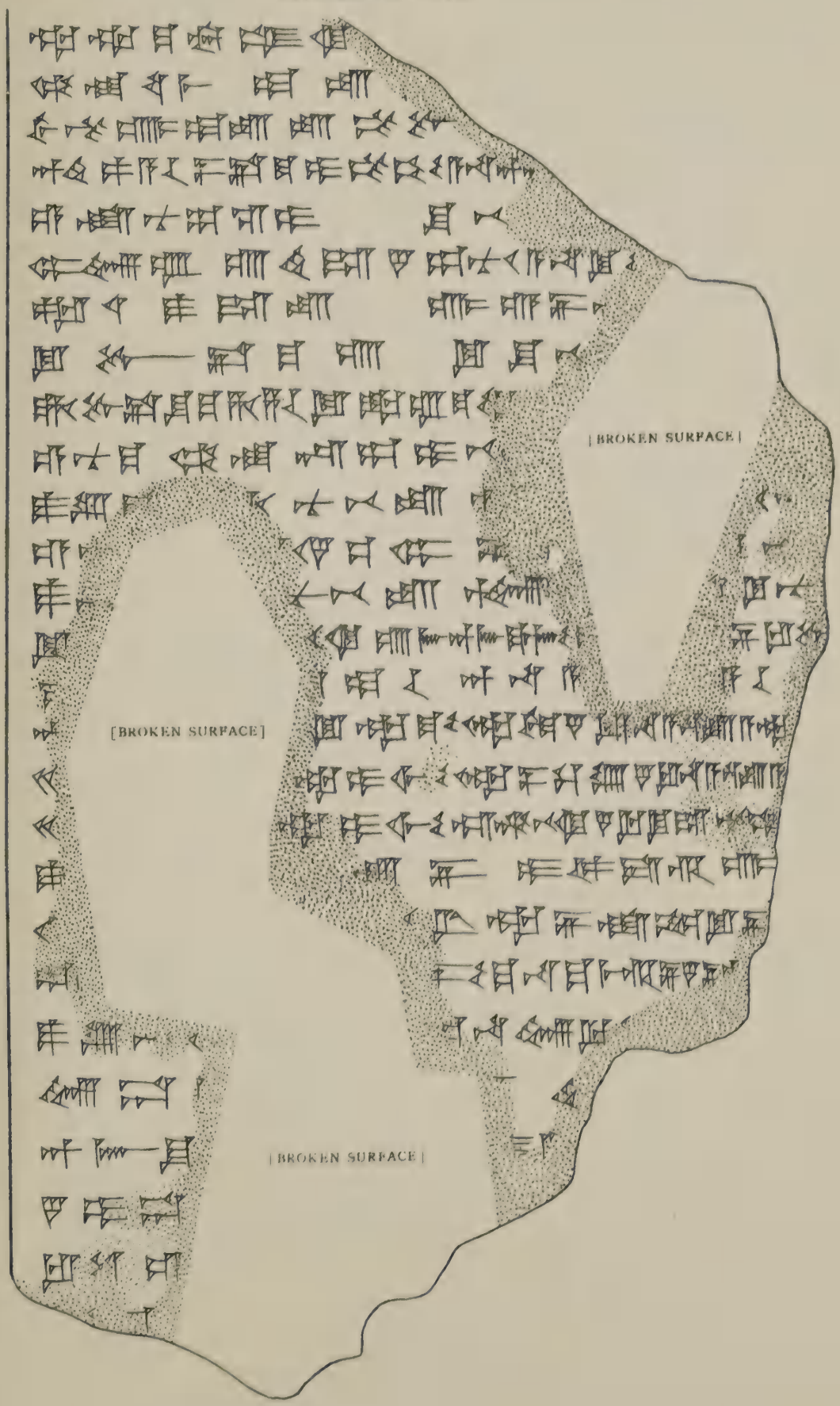
REVERSE.



CREATION SERIES, UNNUMBERED TABLETS.

K. 3445 + Rm. 396.

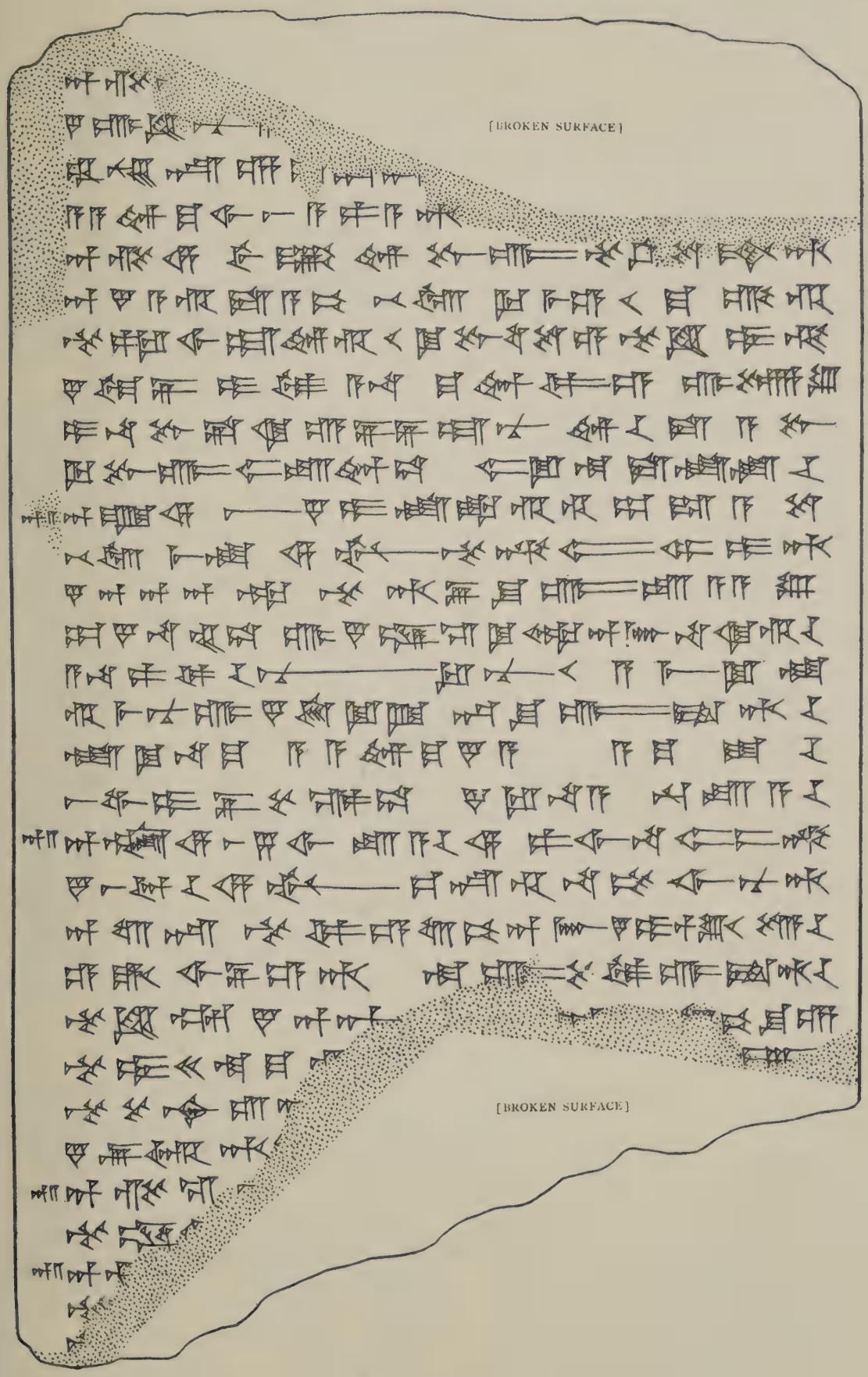
REVERSE. (CONTINUED.)



CREATION SERIES, UNNUMBERED TABLETS.

K 8522.

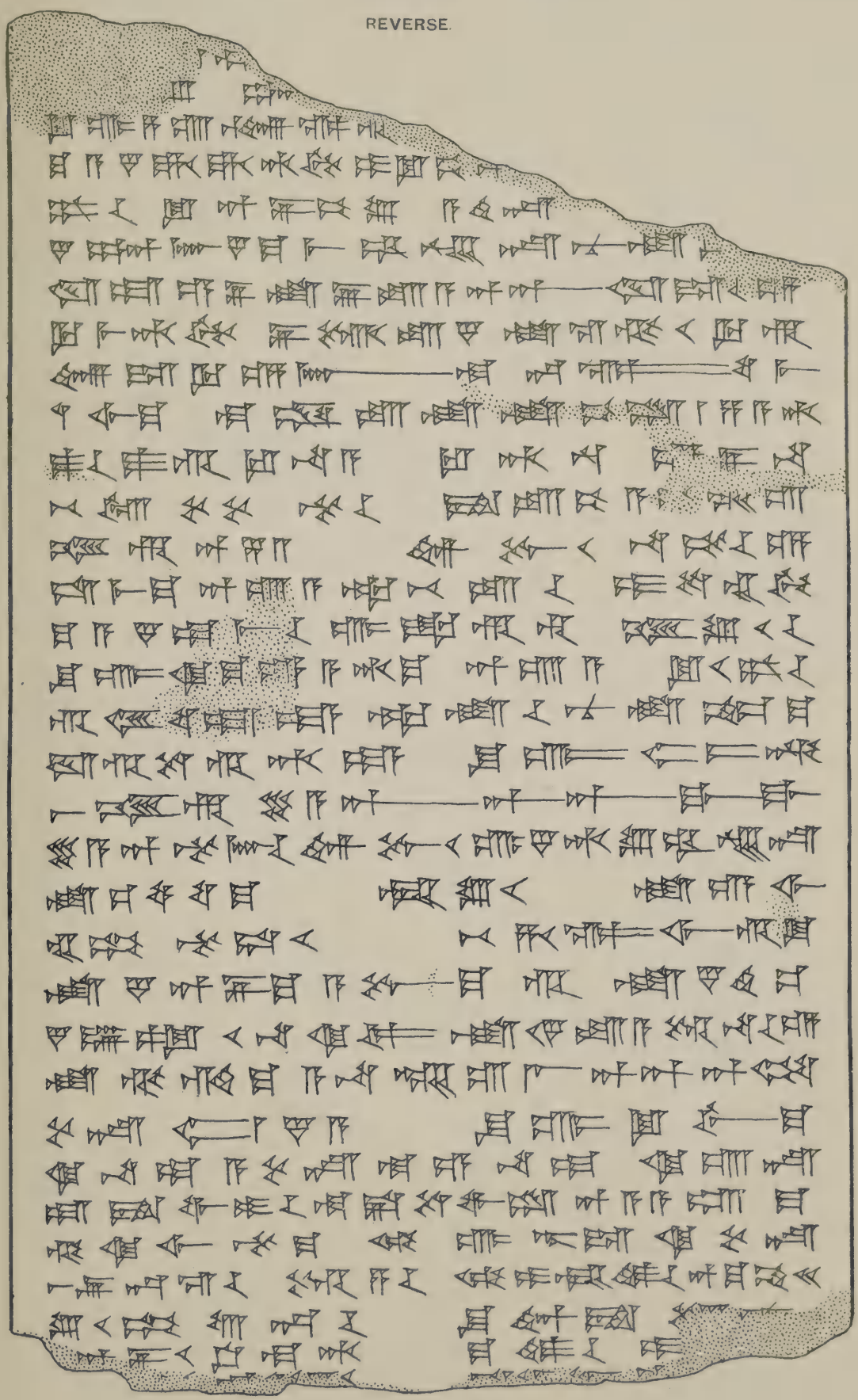
OBVERSE.



CREATION SERIES, UNNUMBERED TABLETS.

K. 8522.

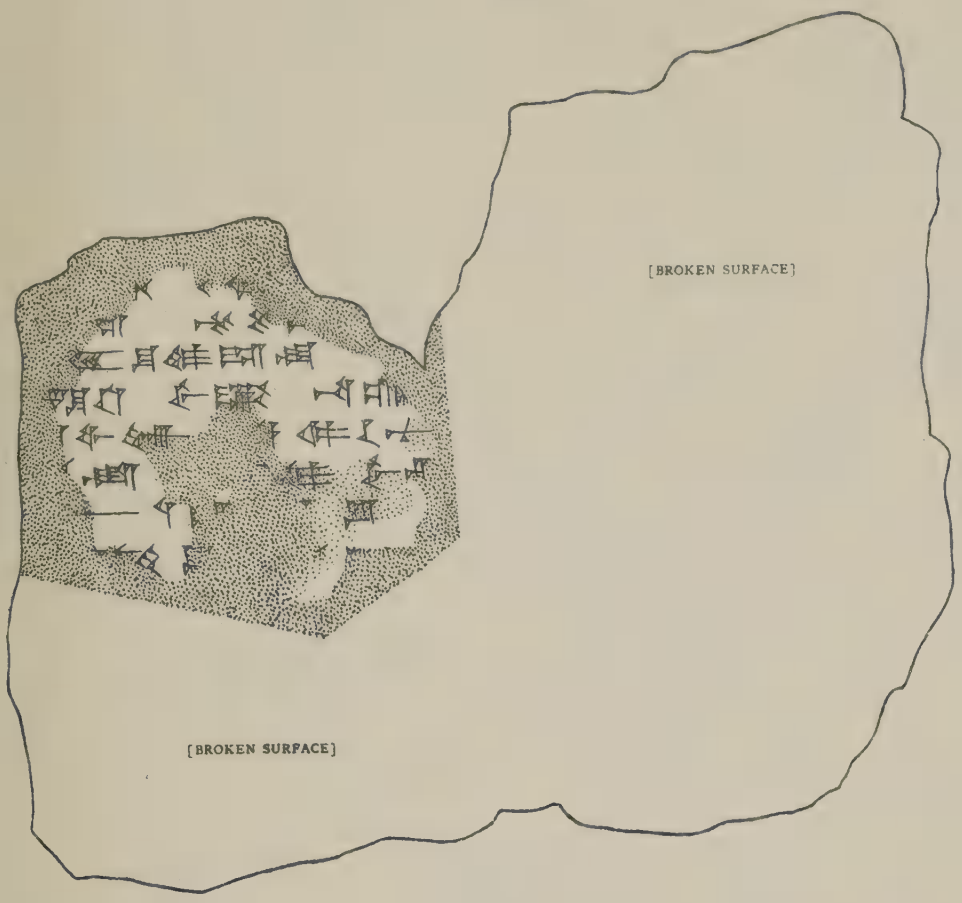
REVERSE.



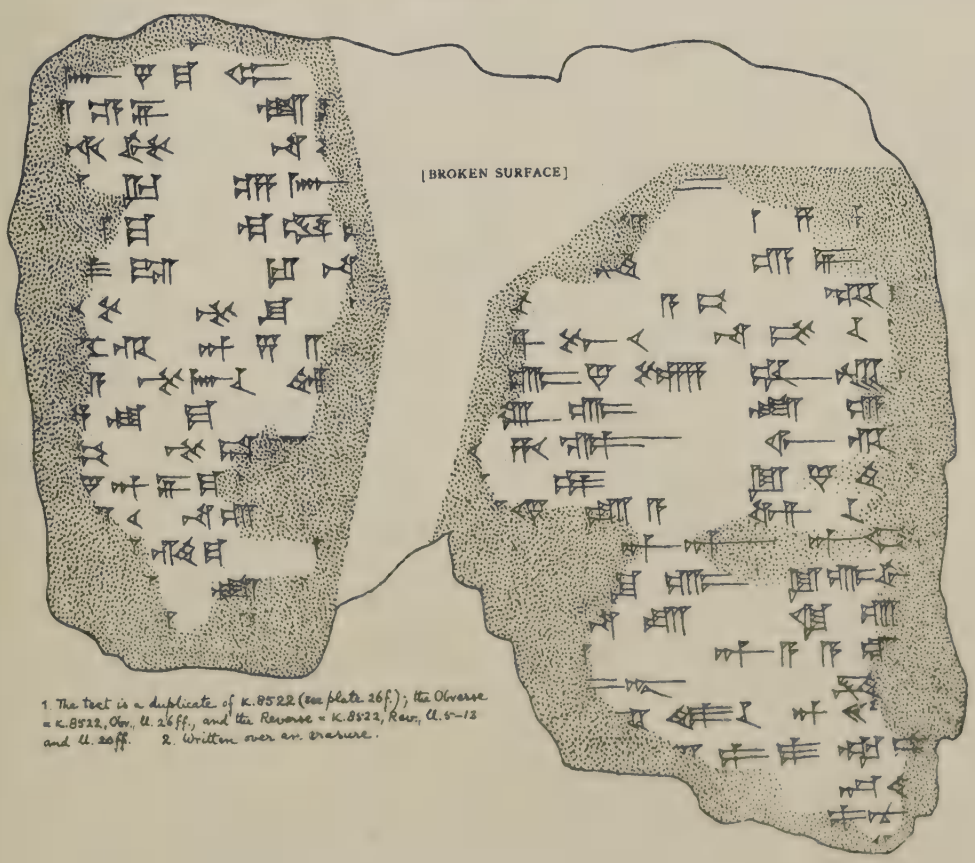
CREATION SERIES, UNNUMBERED TABLETS.

K. 9267.

OBVERSE.



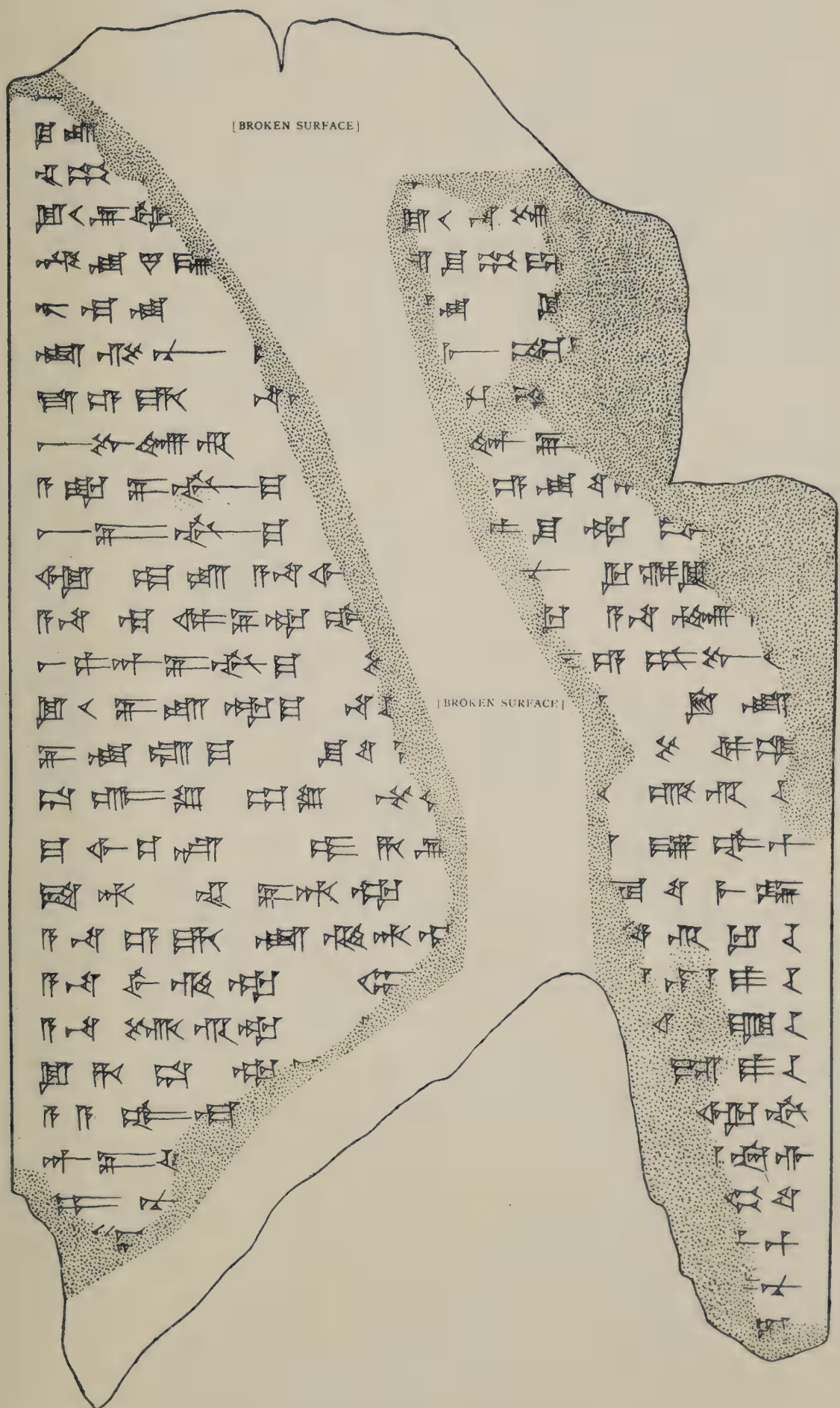
REVERSE.



1. The text is a duplicate of K.8522 (see plate 26f.); the Obverse = K.8522, Obv., ll. 26ff., and the Reverse = K.8522, Rev., ll. 5–12 and ll. 20ff. 2. Written over an erasure.

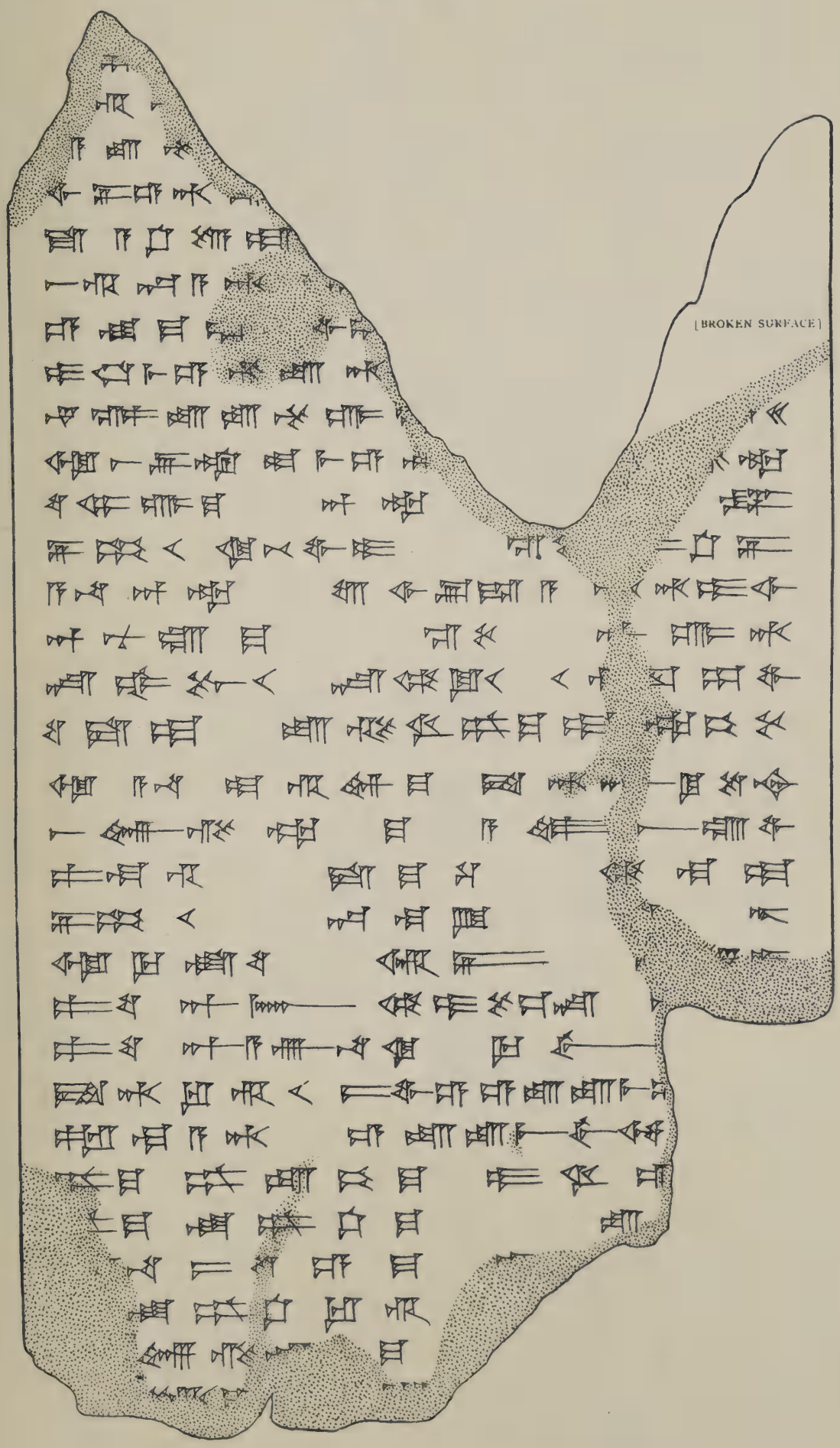
K. 3364.

OBVERSE.

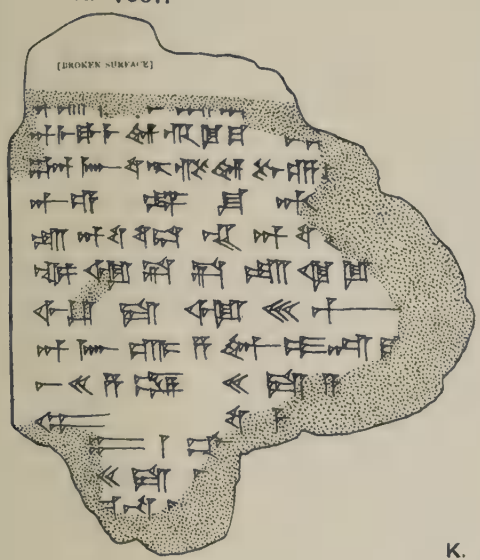


K. 3364.

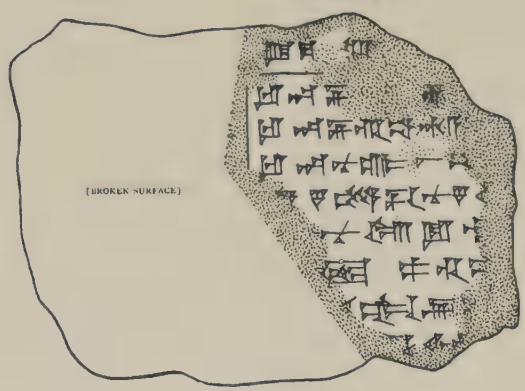
REVERSE.



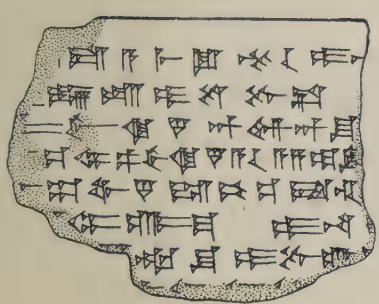
K. 7067.



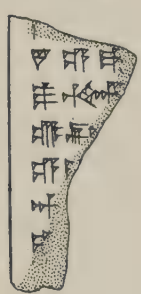
K. 10791.



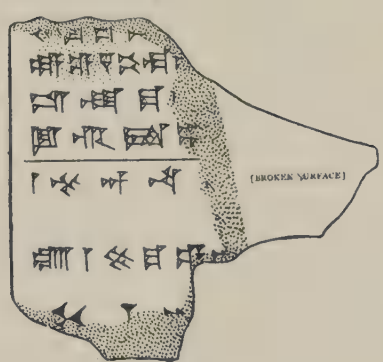
K. 8572.



K. 11048.

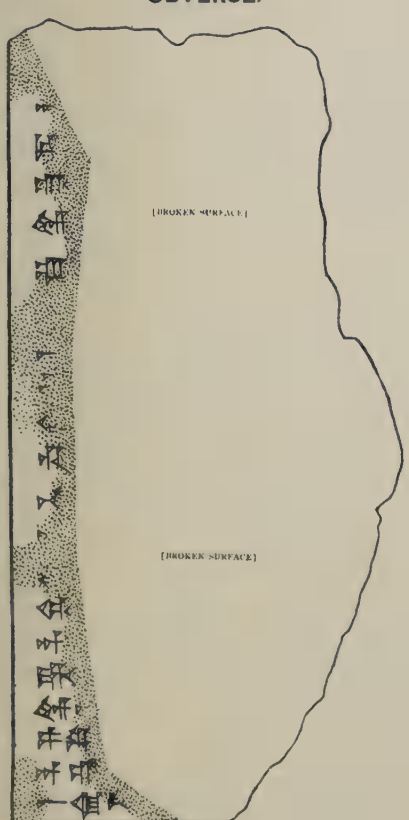


K. 12000, *c*

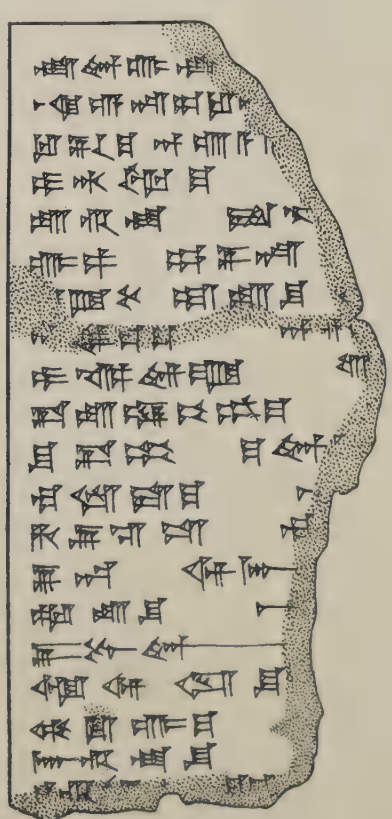


Rm. 982+80-7-19, 178.

OBVERSE.



REVERSE.



REVERSE.

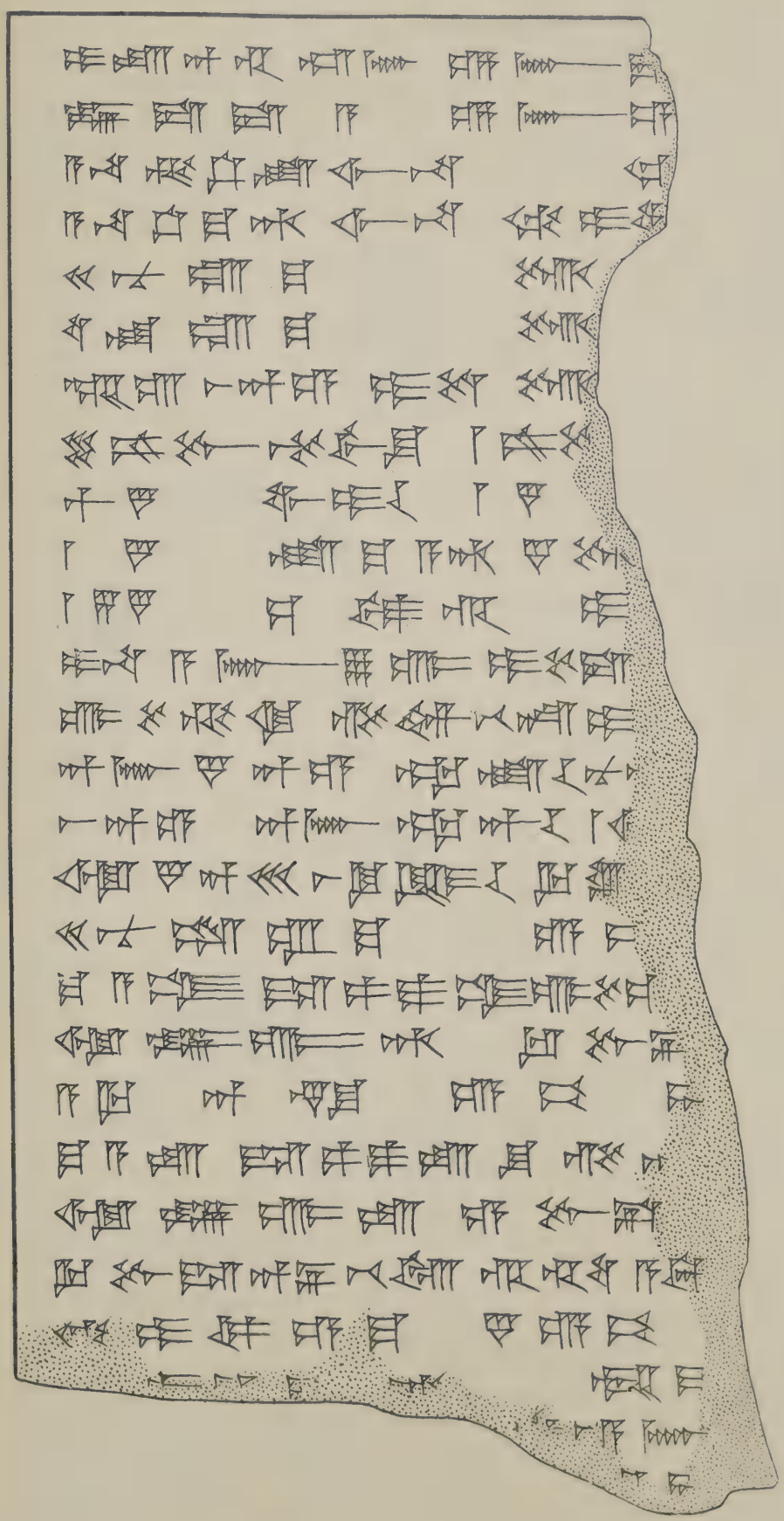
S. 747.

OBVERSE.

OTHER CREATION LEGENDS.

Rm. 282.

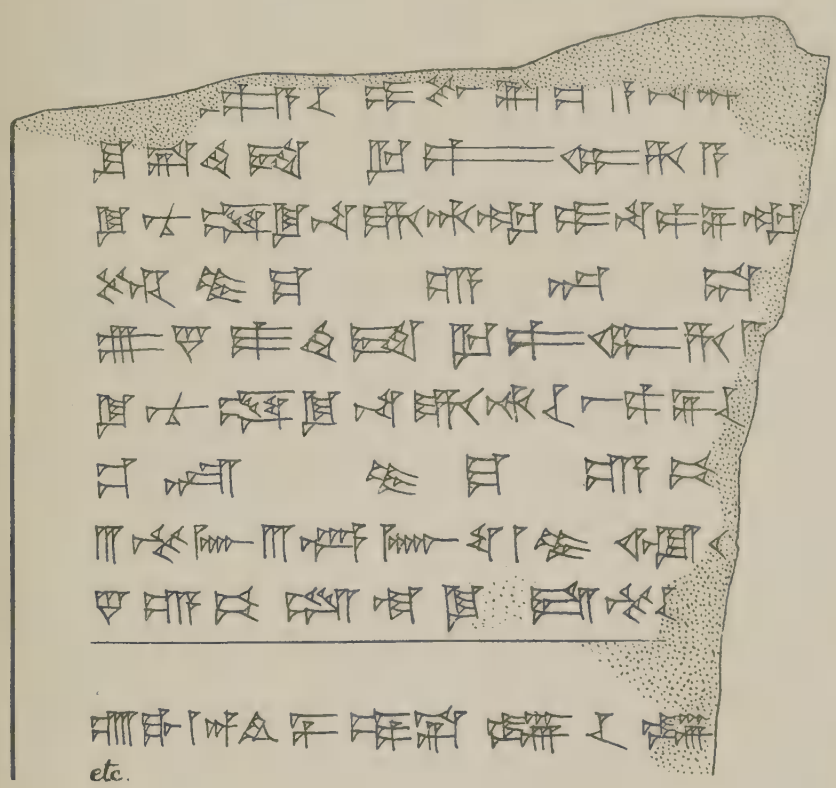
OBVERSE.



OTHER CREATION LEGENDS.

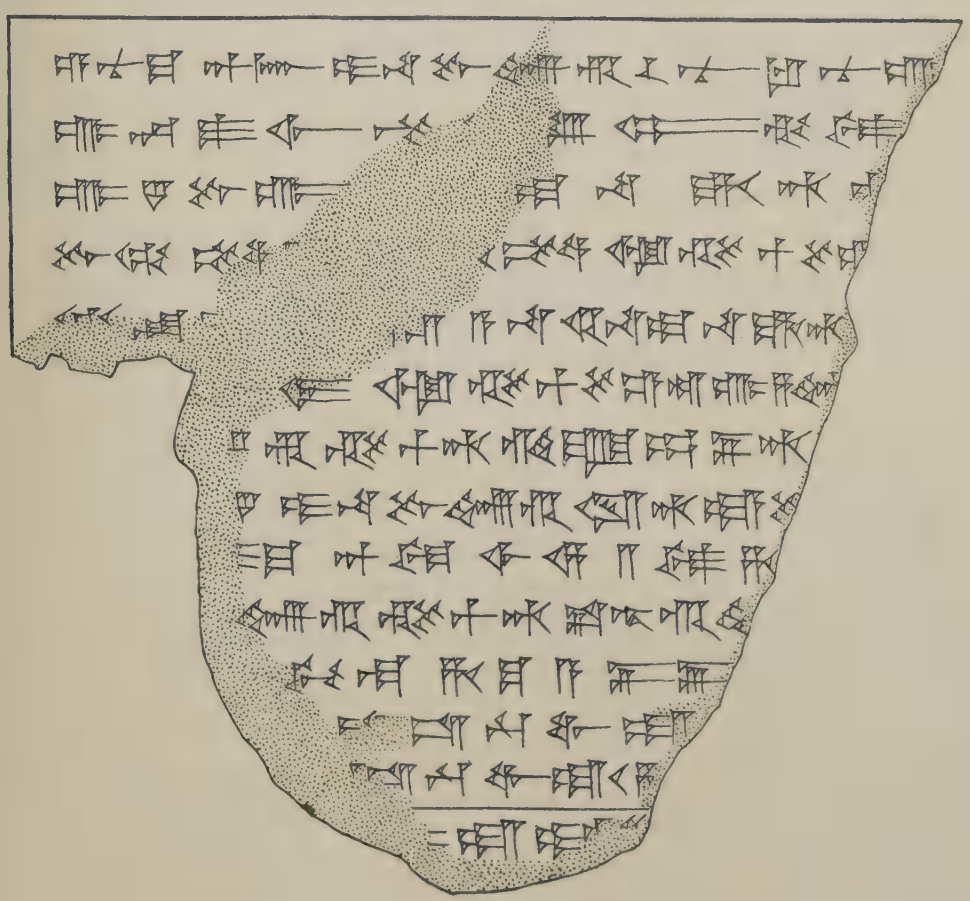
Rm. 282.

REVERSE.

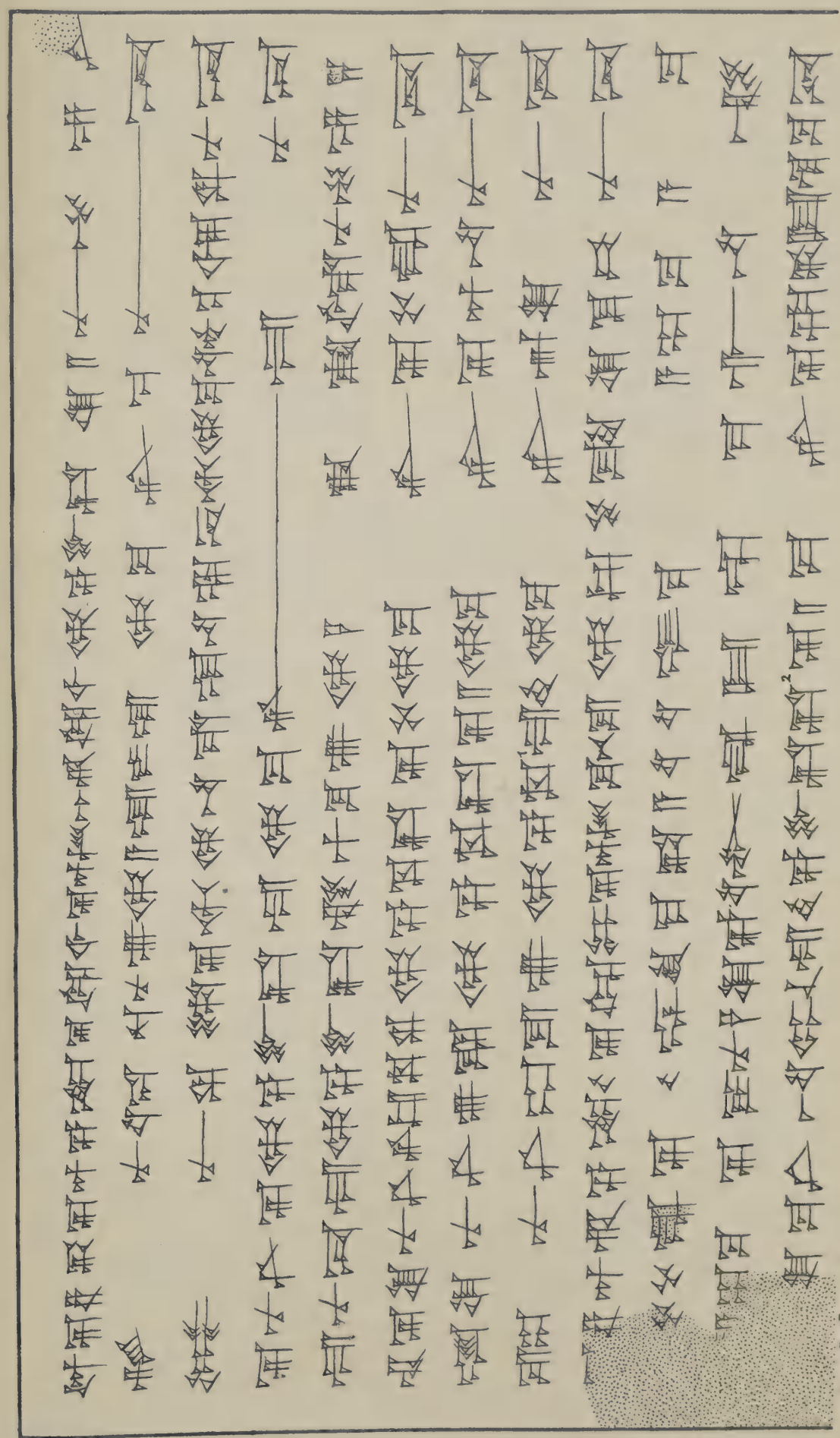


etc.

D.T. 41.



OTHER CREATION LEGENDS.



82-5-22, 1048.

OBVERSE.

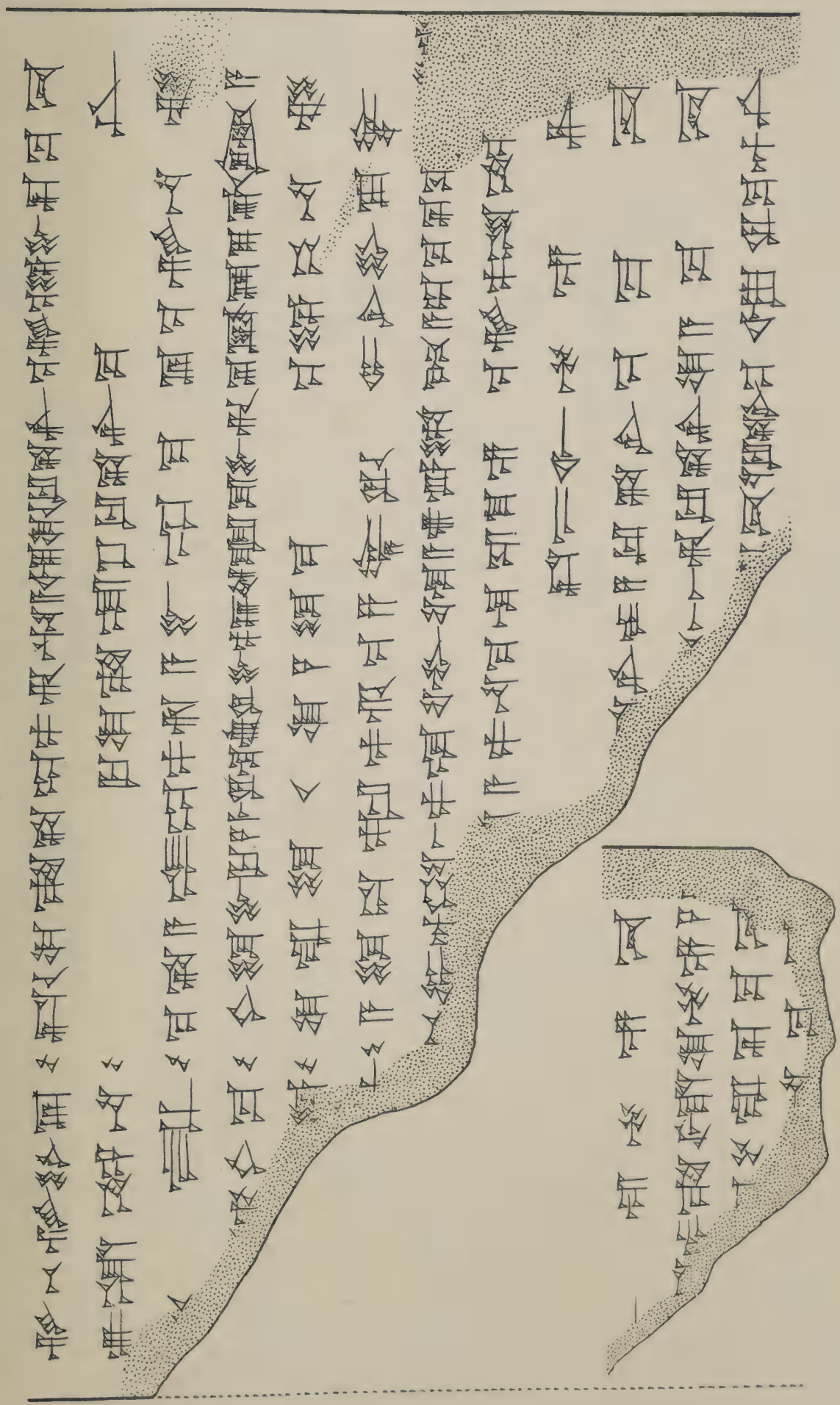
1. Supply [illegible] 2. Sic.

OTHER CREATION LEGENDS.

82-5-22, 1048.

OBVERSE. (CONTINUED.)

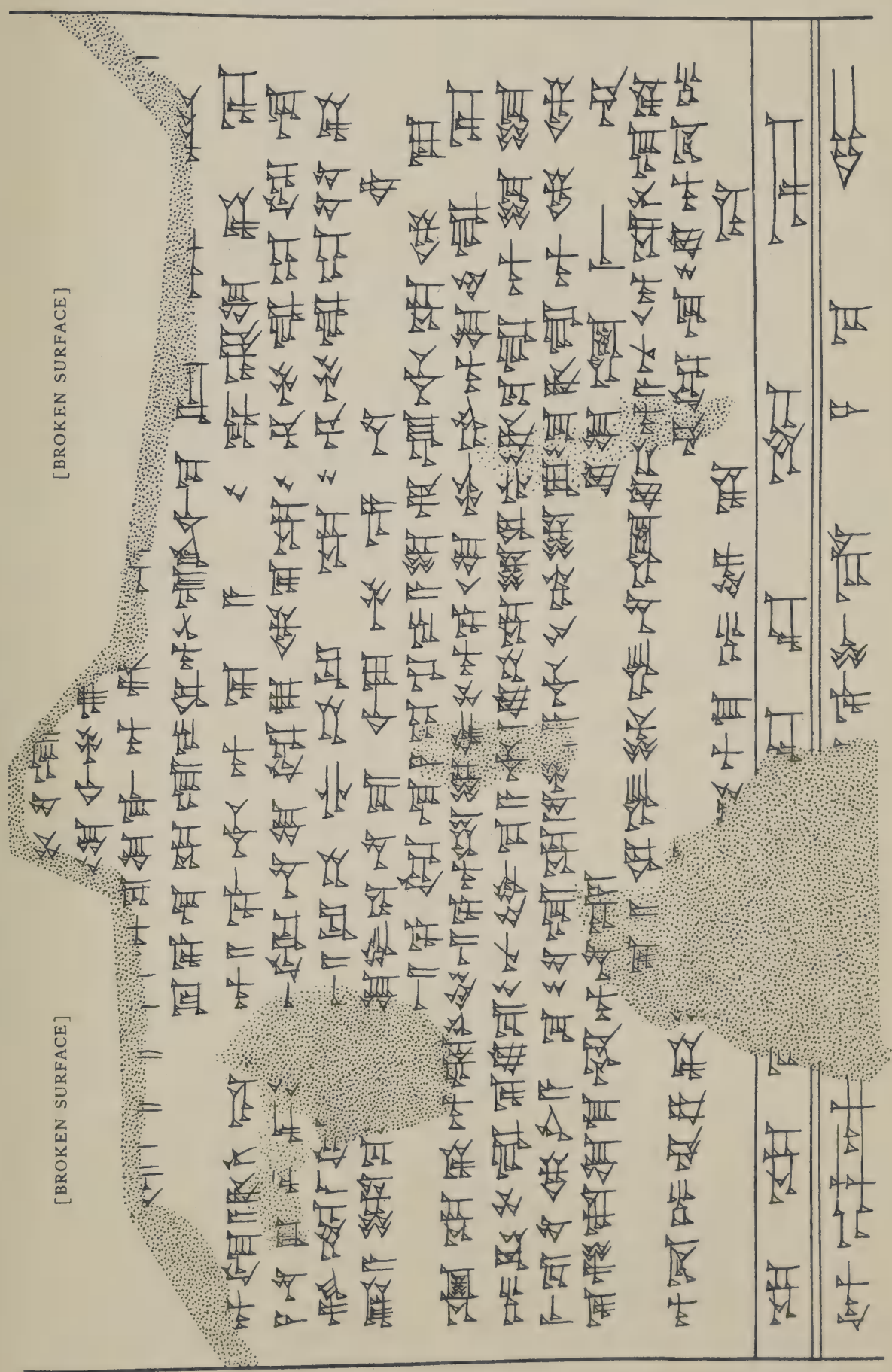
OTHER CREATION LEGENDS.



82-5-22, 1048.

OBVERSE (CONTINUED)

OTHER CREATION LEGENDS.



[BROKEN SURFACE]

[BROKEN SURFACE]

82-5-22, 1048

REVERSE.

LEGENDS OF EARLY KINGS.

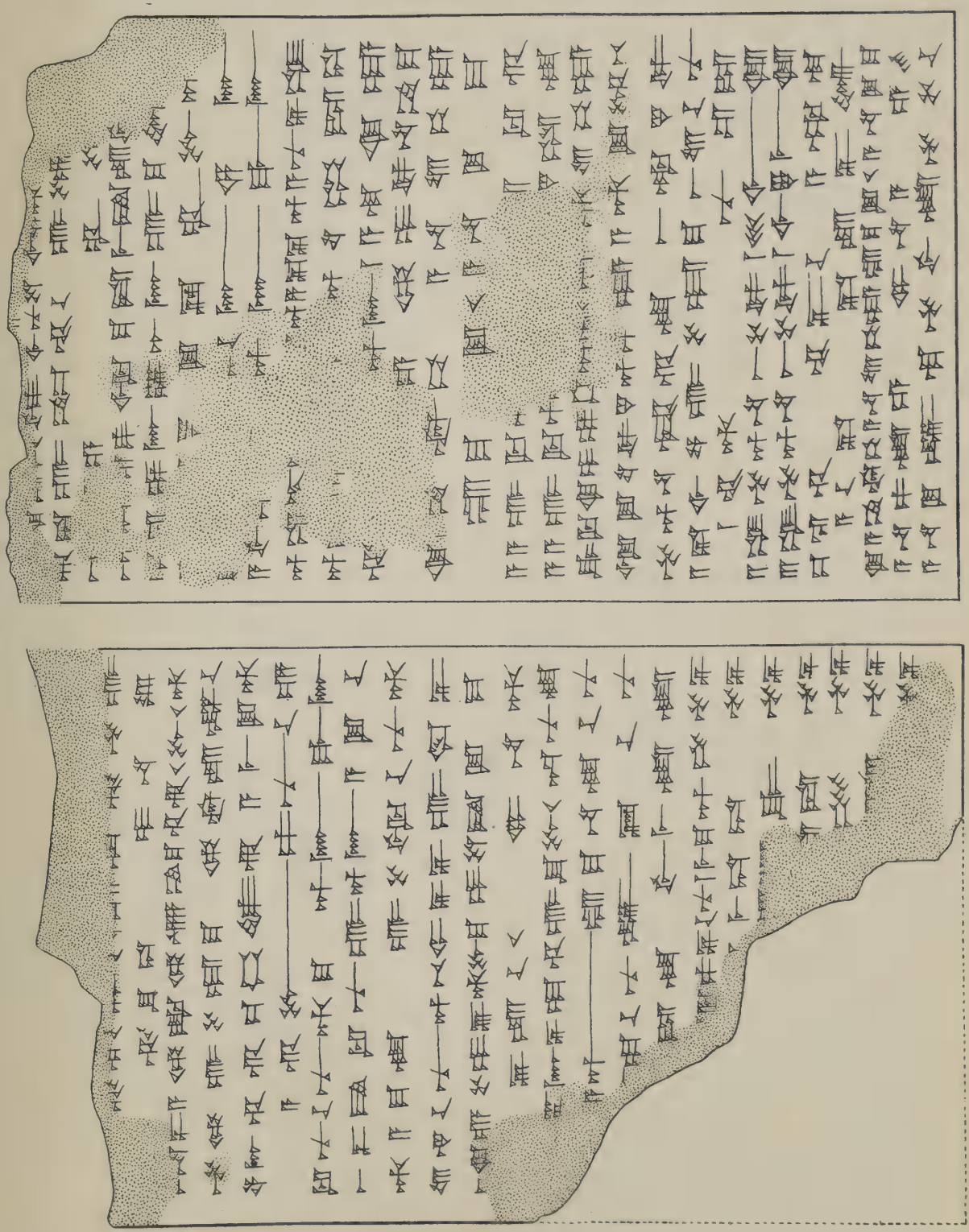
[LEGEND OF AN ANCIENT KING OF CUTHAH.]

K. 5418, *a*.

OBVERSE.

COL. I.

COL. II.



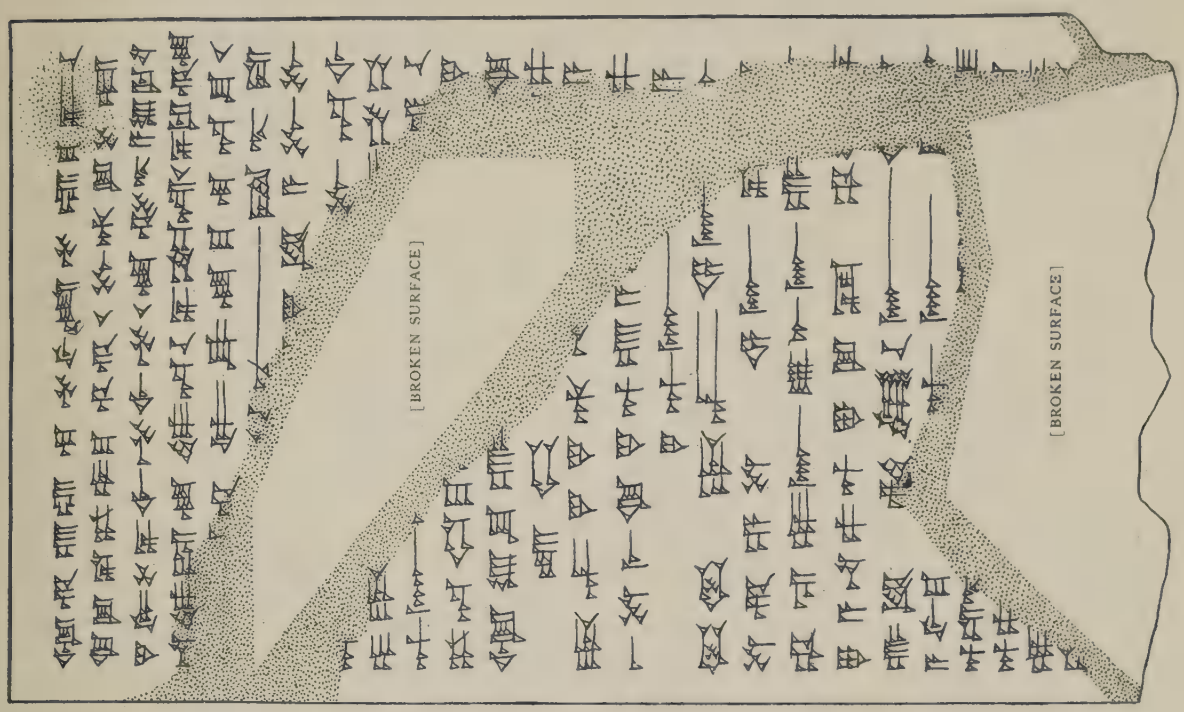
LEGENDS OF EARLY KINGS.

[LEGEND OF AN ANCIENT KING OF CUTHAH.]

K. 5418, *a*.

REVERSE.

COL. III.

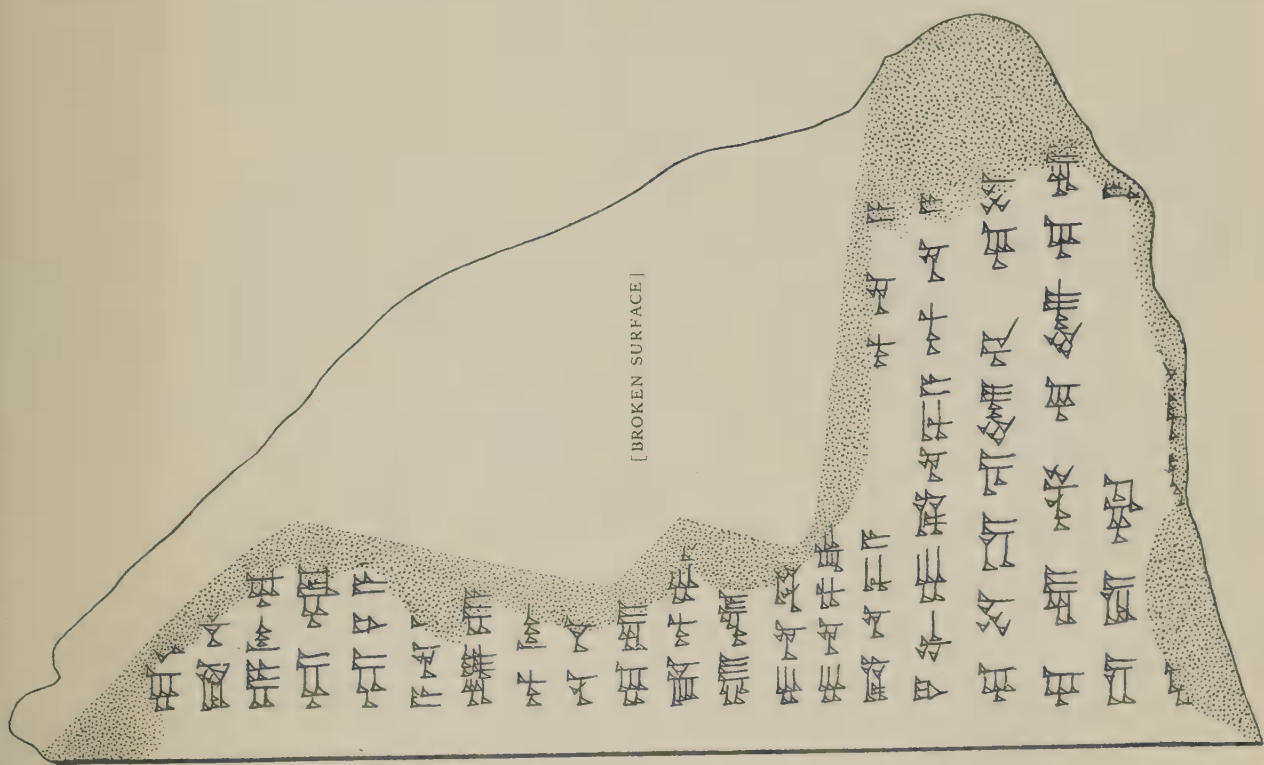


COL. IV.

LEGENDS OF EARLY KINGS.

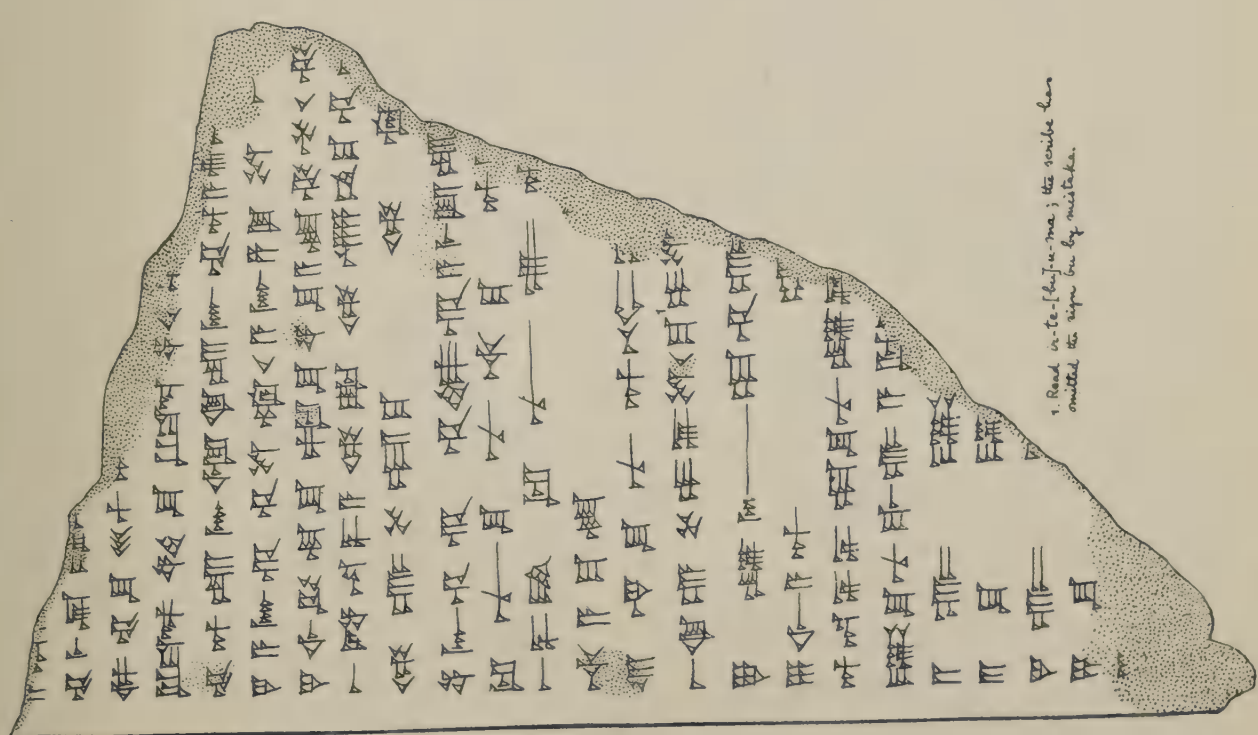
[LEGEND OF AN ANCIENT KING OF CUTHAH.]

REVERSE.



K. 5640.

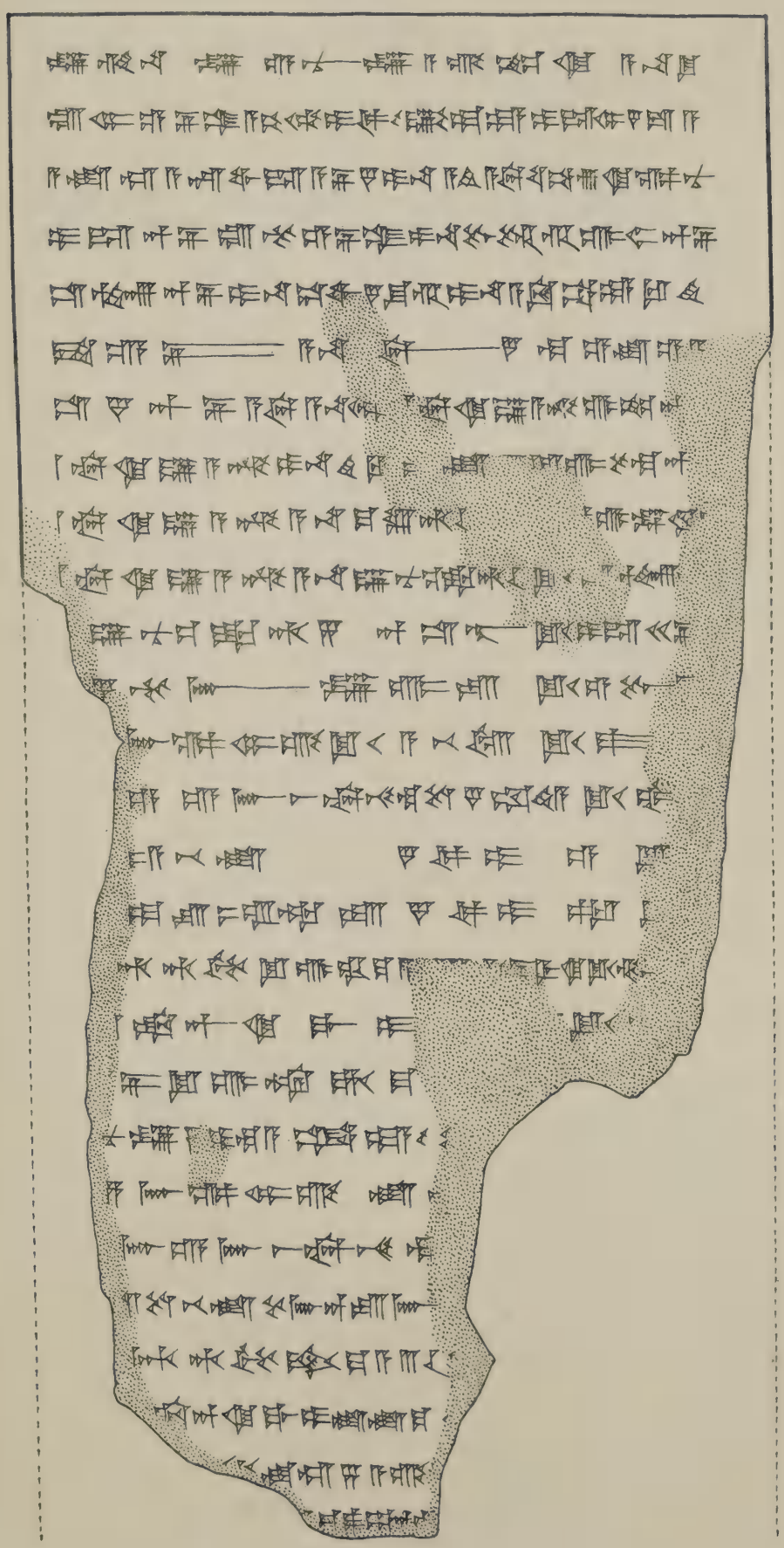
OBVERSE.



LEGENDS OF EARLY KINGS.

[LEGEND OF SARGON, KING OF AGADE.]

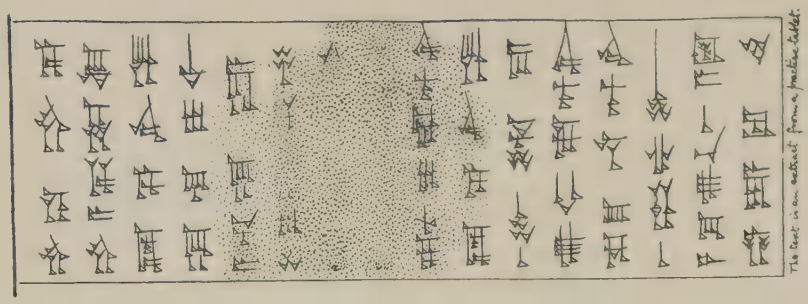
K. 3401 + S. 2118



LEGENDS OF EARLY KINGS.

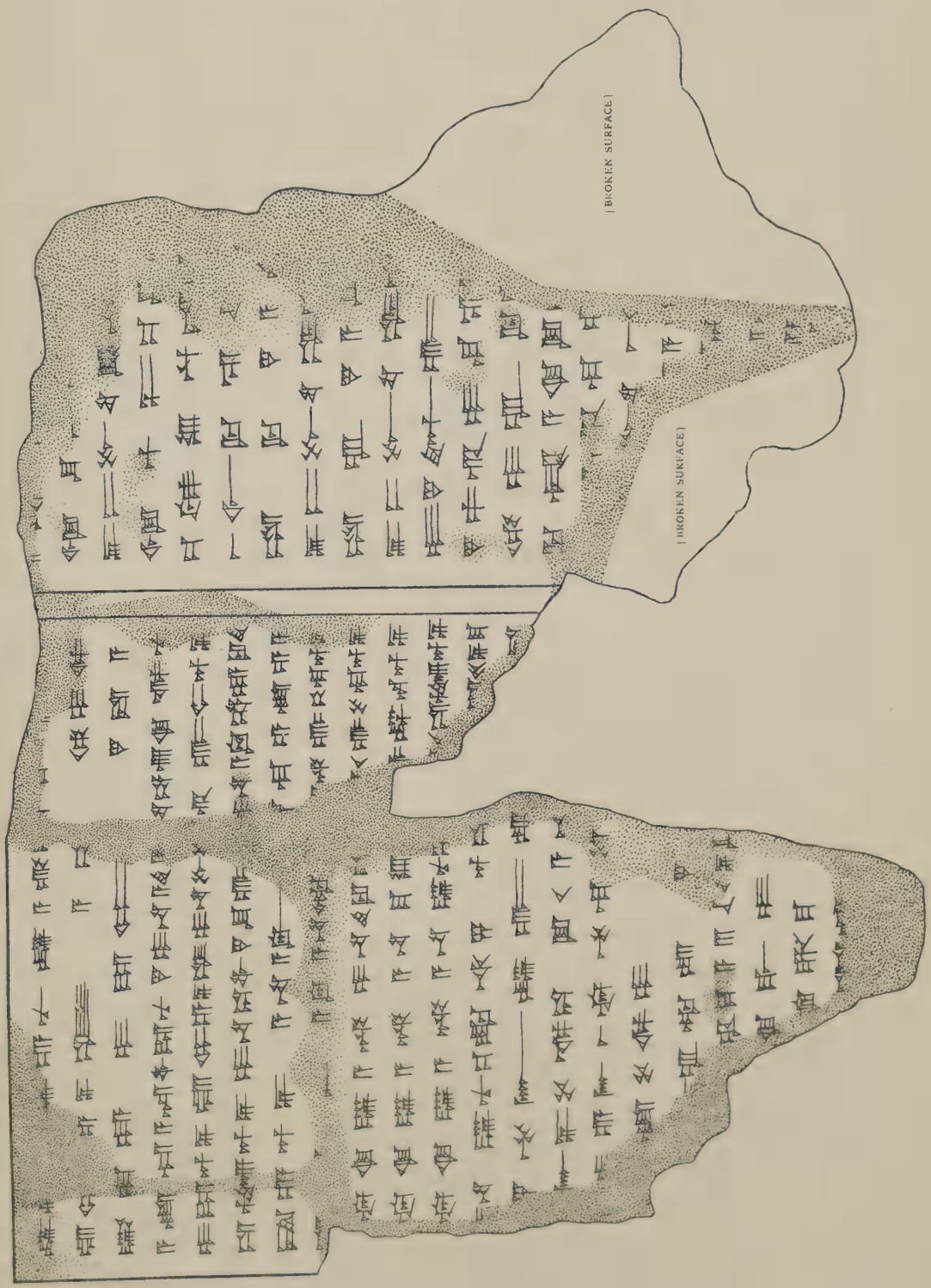
[LEGEND OF SARGON, KING OF AGADE.]

47449.



The text is an extract from a practice tablet.

K. 4470

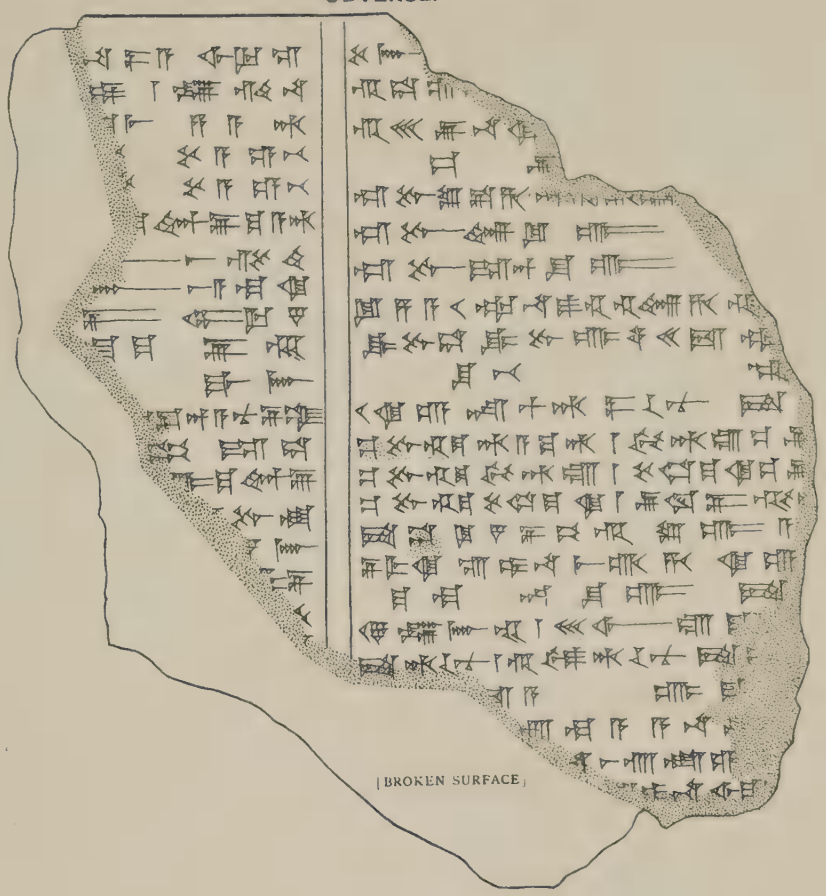


LEGENDS OF EARLY KINGS.

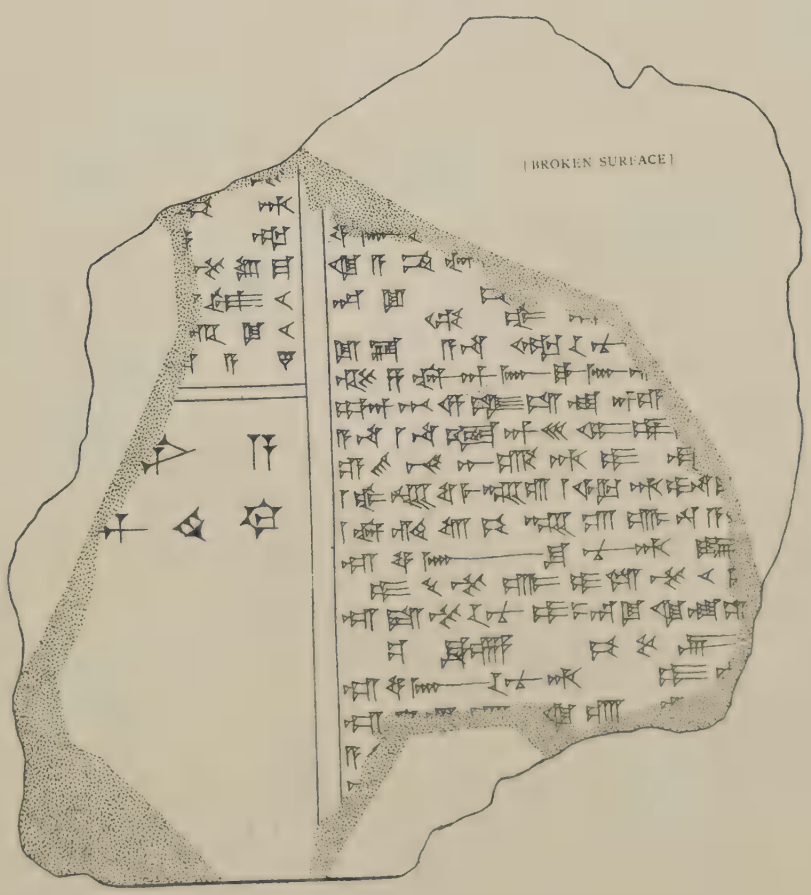
[LEGEND OF NARAM-SIN, THE SON OF SARGON.]

81-2-4, 219.

OBVERSE.



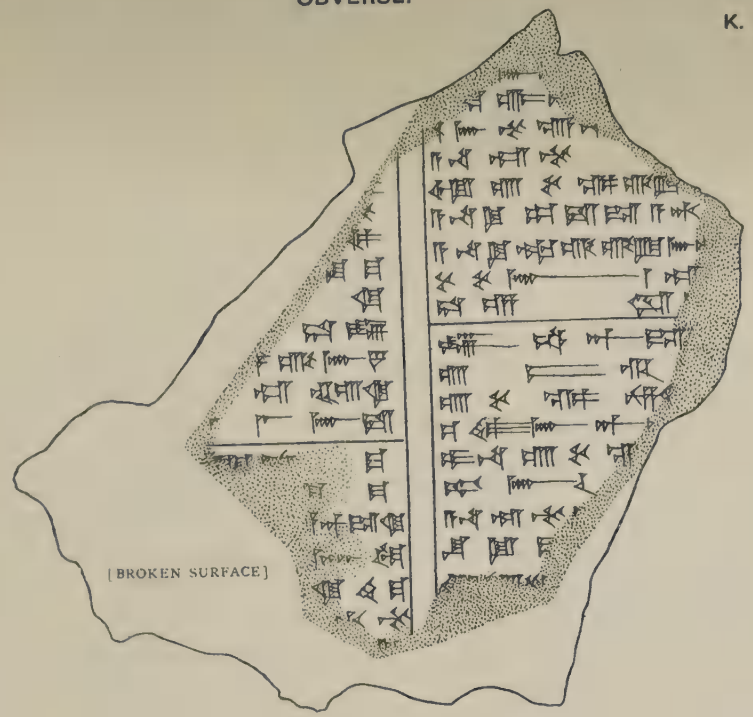
REVERSE.



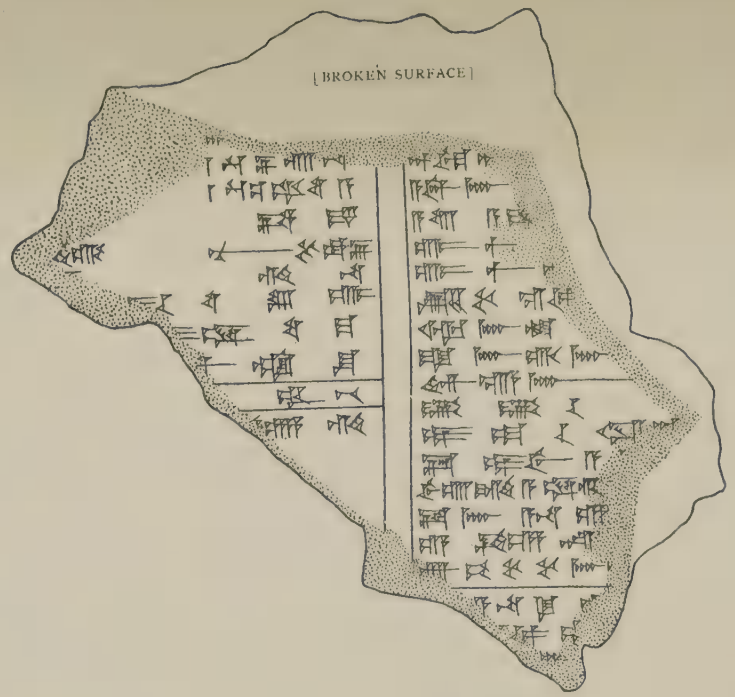
[MENTION OF DUNGI, KING OF UR.]

K. 8708.

OBVERSE.



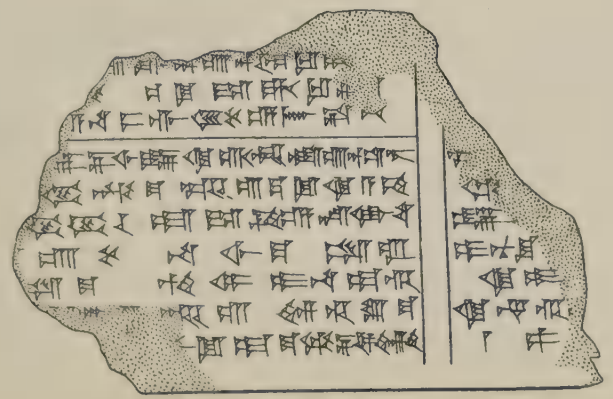
REVERSE.



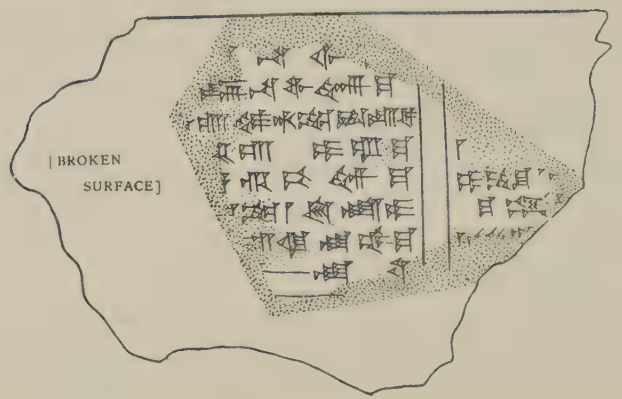
[MENTION OF LIBIT-ISHTAR, KING OF ISIN.]

K. 2973.

OBVERSE.



REVERSE.

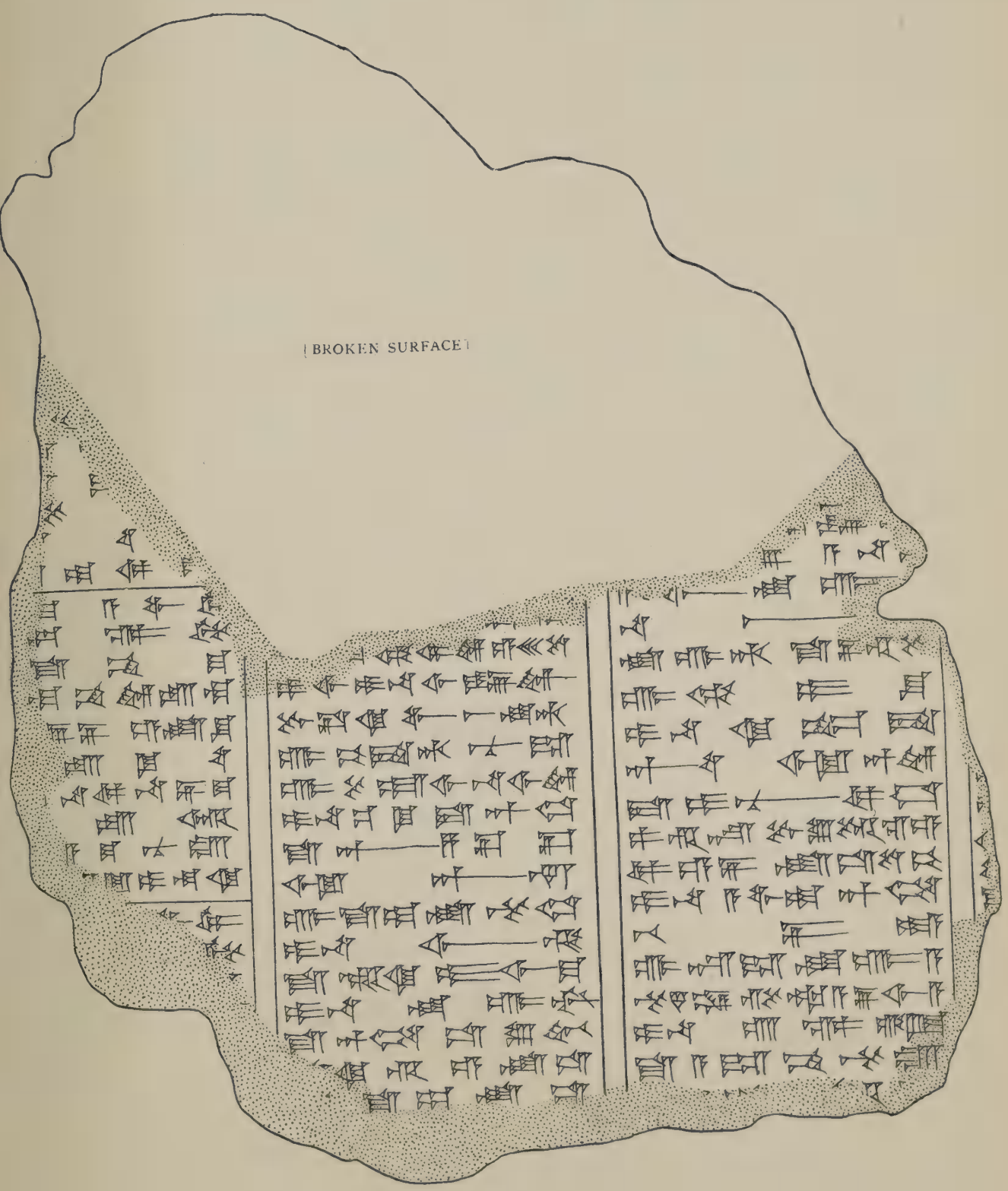


TEXTS OF EARLY KINGS.

[FRAGMENT OF LAWS OF HAMMURABI, KING OF BABYLON.]

Bu. 91-5-9, 221.

OBVERSE.

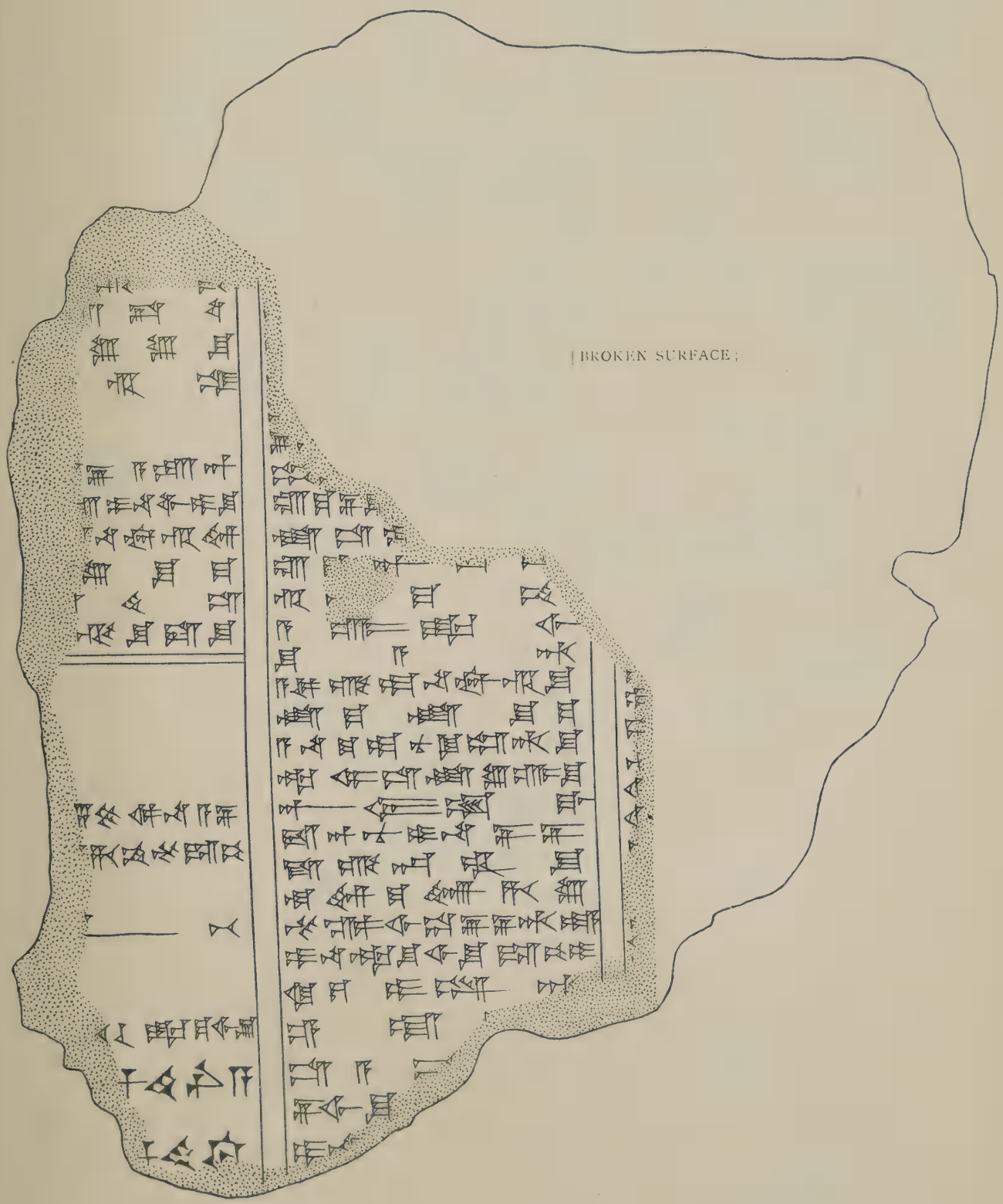


TEXTS OF EARLY KINGS.

[FRAGMENT OF LAWS OF HAMMURABI, KING OF BABYLON.]

Bu. 91-5-9, 221.

REVERSE.

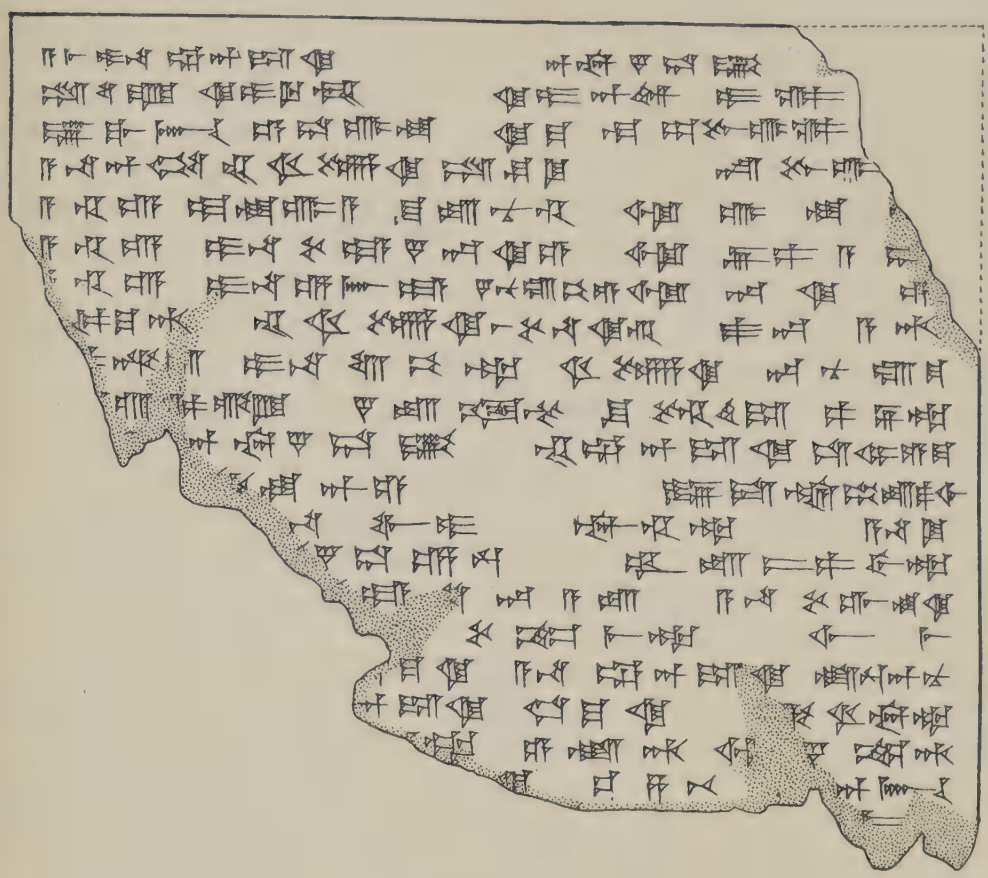


LEGENDS OF EARLY KINGS.

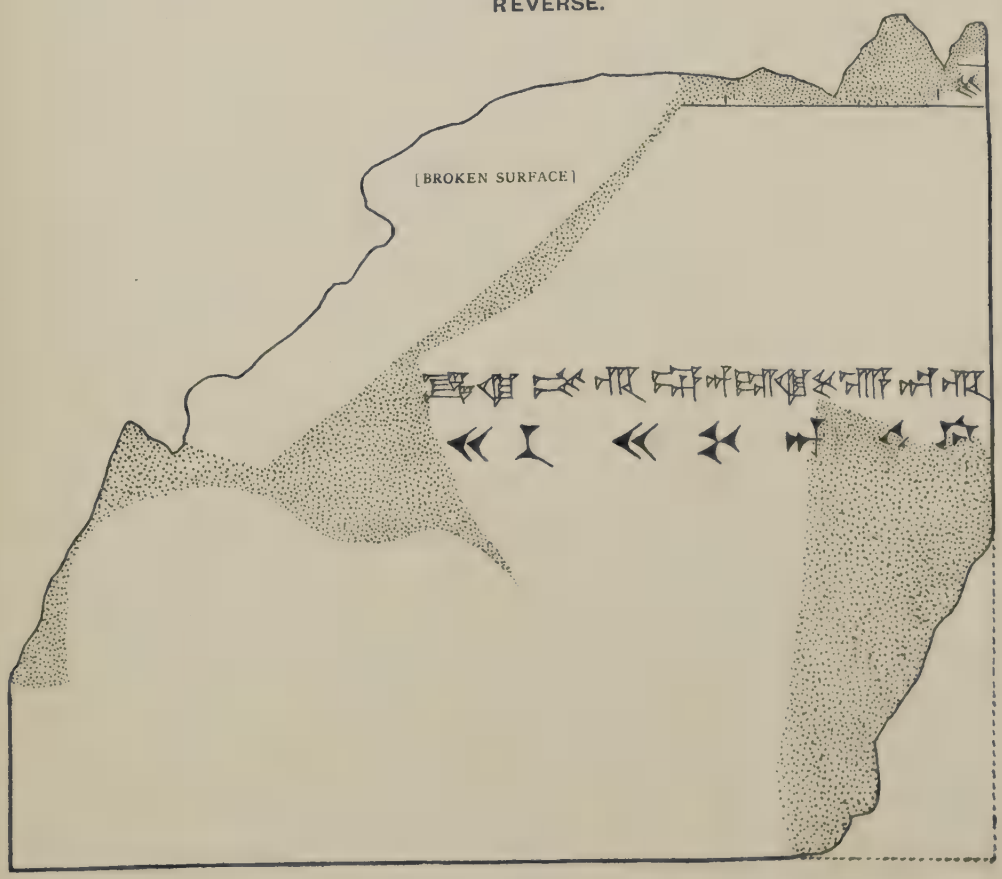
[LEGEND OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR I., KING OF BABYLON.]

K. 3426.

OBVERSE.

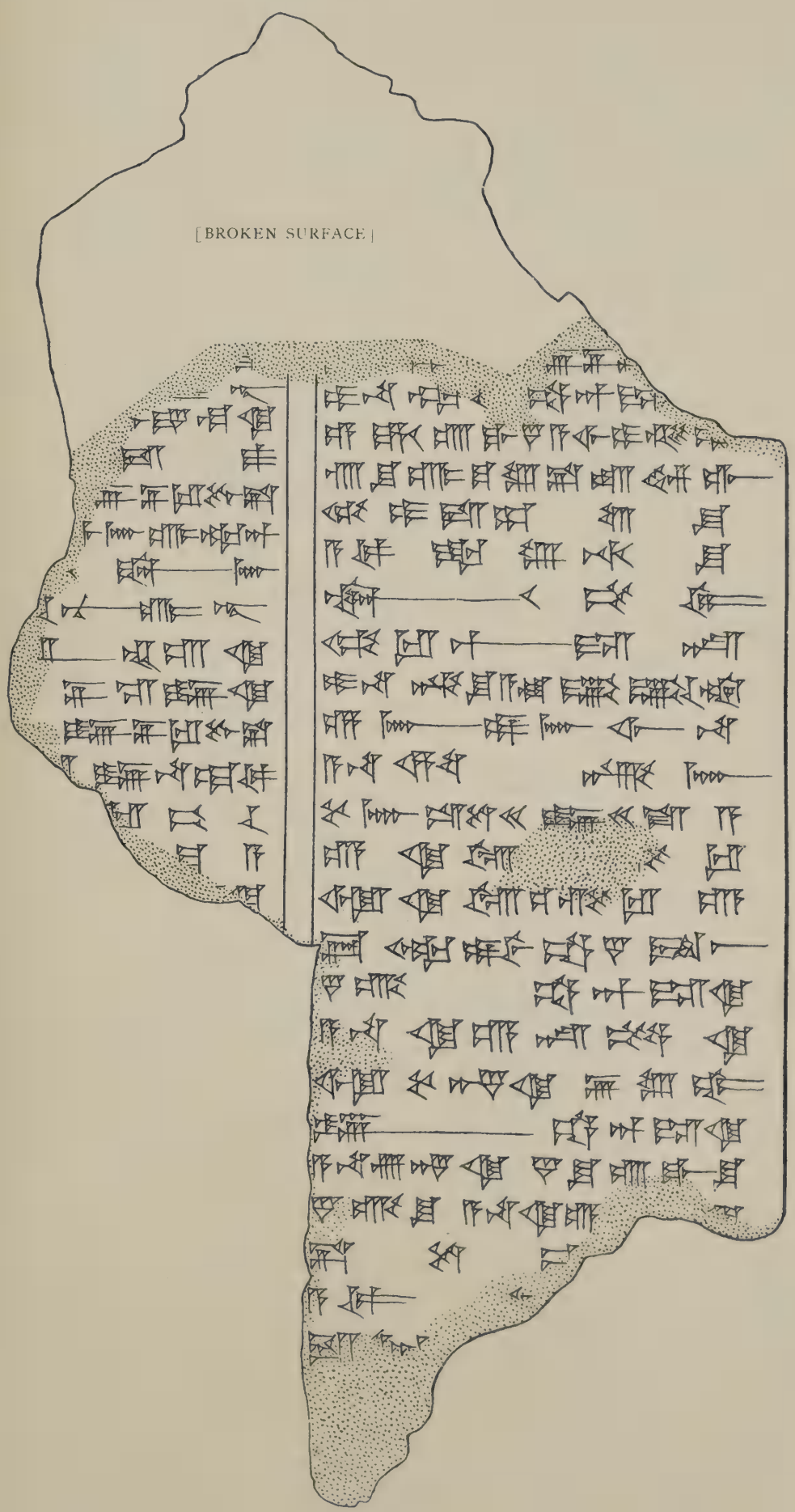


REVERSE.



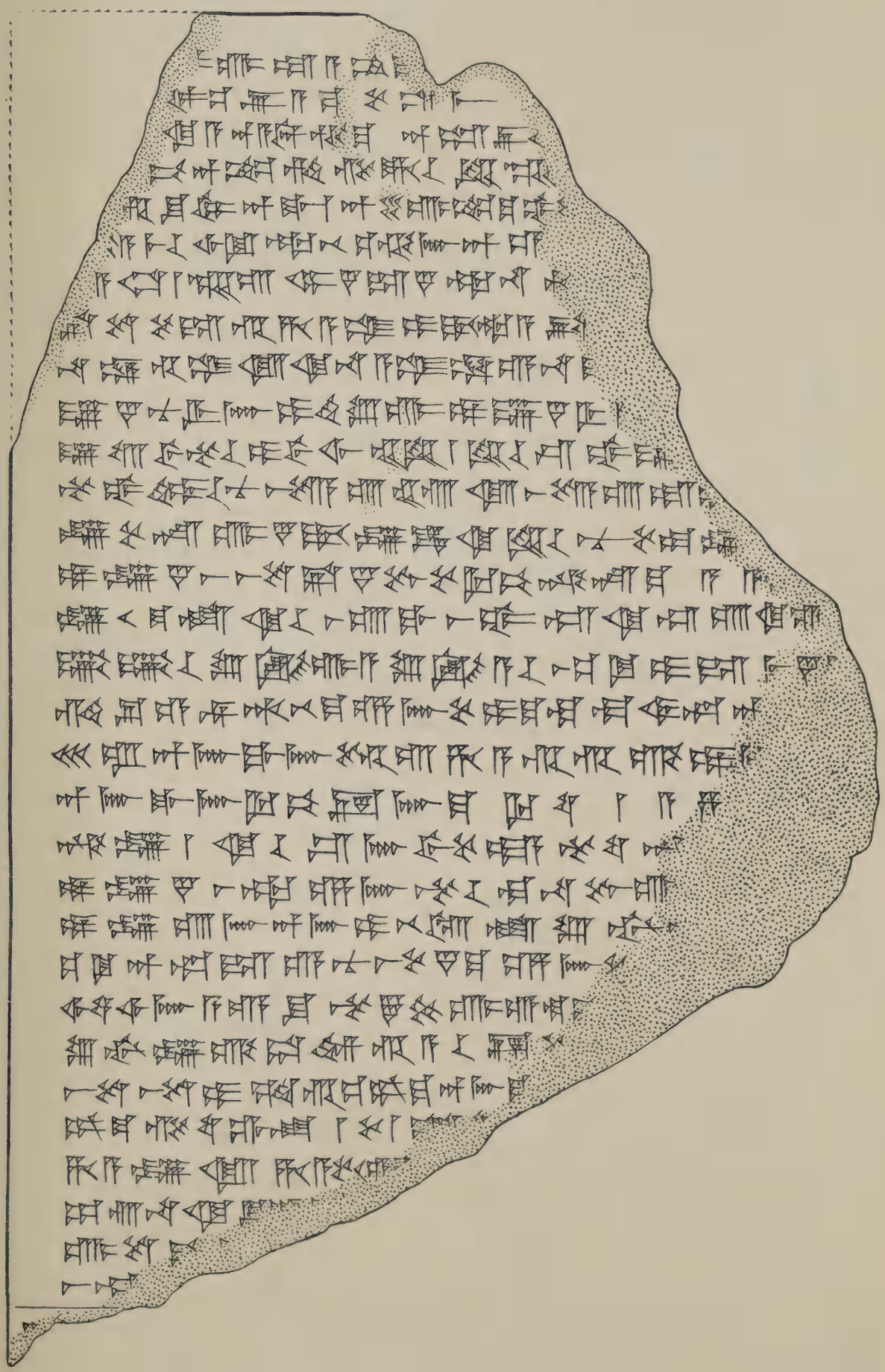
LEGENDS OF EARLY KINGS.

K. 4541.



LEGENDS OF EARLY KINGS.

K. 7861.



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